

Kuwait has highest reserves in Gulf

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait for the first time has overtaken Saudi Arabia as the Gulf Arab state with the highest state reserves, a bank study released on Monday said. The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) said the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) held reserves totalling \$204.7 billion at the end of 1986. The reserves surged with oil revenue in the 1970s but have been repeatedly drawn down in recent years to finance state budget deficits that emerged when oil revenues fell. NBK said Kuwait's reserves stood at \$35 billion at the end of last year followed by Saudi Arabia (\$30 billion), the United Arab Emirates (\$22 billion), Qatar (\$12 billion), Oman (\$3.1 billion) and Bahrain (\$1.6 billion). Most of the GCC reserves are in the United States and Western Europe. The study estimated Kuwait's reserves, after deducting amounts used to finance the budget deficit, at \$39.7 billion at the end of last June. It projected they would reach \$91 billion by the end of the fiscal year ending June 1988. NBK predicted there would be nil or slightly negative economic growth this year in the GCC despite an upturn in oil revenues, the main source of income. It estimated GCC oil revenues would reach \$37 billion from \$35 billion last year because of higher world oil prices.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Khaddam and Raimond leave Jeddah

JEDDAH (Agencies) — France's foreign minister and Syria's vice president both left Saudi Arabia on Monday after meetings with King Fahd, but without seeing each other. Diplomats had thought the two might meet to discuss the hostage crisis in Lebanon, where seven French nationals are still missing, believed kidnapped. The French Foreign Ministry in Paris said Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond did not meet Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, despite their coinciding visits to Jeddah. Mr. Raimond, who arrived on Sunday, delivered messages to King Fahd from President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. Mr. Khaddam arrived on Saturday as foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, — discussed the Iran-Iraq war. The Saudi Press Agency said King Fahd and Mr. Khaddam discussed the Iran-Iraq war and called for an end to the seven-year-old conflict. Mr. Raimond's trip, which began Saturday night, was only made public by a Saudi Press Agency report on Sunday. The French Foreign Ministry at first declined any comment on the visit.

Volume 12 Number 3577

AMMAN, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 1987, MUHARRAM 22, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Regent visits army units

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, visited units of the Third Armoured Division of the Armed Forces during exercises they conducted on Monday. The Regent met with the commander of the division and senior officers as well as soldiers of the unit. The division commander briefed the Regent on the various phases of the exercises and the level of progress of training.

Kuranari due here on Sept. 20

AMMAN (R) — Japan's Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari will discuss the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict when he visits Jordan on Sept. 20, an embassy source said on Monday. He said Mr. Kuranari would stop in Baghdad and Amman on his way to New York for the U.N. General Assembly before going on to several Latin American countries. Mr. Kuranari hoped to meet Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, but might not see Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri due in Tunis the same day to attend an Arab League meeting to discuss Iran's response to U.N. efforts to end the Gulf war.

Jordan and Iraq to sign Islamic accord

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat left Amman for Baghdad on Monday on a several-day official visit to Iraq. During his visit, Dr. Khayyat is expected to sign his Iraqi counterpart Abdullah Fadel Abbas an agreement on Islamic preaching and regulations ruling Waqf management. The agreement will also deal with exchanging information and research on Islamic heritage.

Jordan to host Mediterranean talks on medical education

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will host a regional conference on medical education before the end of 1987 with the participation of 23 Mediterranean countries. Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, following a meeting on Monday of preparatory and executive committees of the conference, said that he agreed on holding the conference in Jordan during his tenure as chairman of last year's meetings of the World Health Organisation (WHO) General Assembly upon a request from the chairman of the International Union for Health Education.

Klibi welcomes Iraq-Libya move

TUNIS (AP) — The Arab League on Monday welcomed with "great satisfaction" the move towards improving relations between Iraq and Libya, which has supported Iran in the seven-year Gulf war. Secretary-General Chadli Klibi said in a statement that the Arab League welcomed the "determination" of the two countries to "develop their relations in all domains, in a framework of mutual respect, on the basis of Arab solidarity and founded on the League Charter." Iraq and Libya issued a statement last week saying they intend to improve relations.

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Iraq urges U.N. to adopt punitive action against Iran

Aziz reaffirms Baghdad's acceptance of 598 and calls on Perez de Cuellar to enforce it

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq urged U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Monday to take punitive measures against Iran because it has failed to respond to a July 20 Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire in the seven-year-old Gulf war.

Both sides accused each other of starting new fighting to wreck Mr. Perez de Cuellar's crucial peace mission. But there was no independent confirmation of any significant action.

The Iraqi demand for sanctions against Iran was made by Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz when he met Mr. Perez de Cuellar at the Foreign Ministry.

It was the U.N. chief's first session with Iraqi leaders since he flew in from Tehran Sunday night after two days of talks.

He was scheduled to meet President Saddam Hussein later Monday and return to New York Tuesday.

Mr. Aziz asked Mr. Perez de Cuellar to seek sanctions against Iran "for its refusal to yield to the international community's will in calling for a comprehensive and

lasting peace," Baghdad Radio said in a report on the talks.

The U.N. secretary general, who first held two days of talks in Iran, is trying to get the combatants to accept the Security Council's July 20th Resolution 598, which ordered a ceasefire in the war.

He declined to comment on his talks when he arrived on Sunday night and was whisked around Baghdad on Monday out of the reach of journalists and film crews tracking his mission.

Baghdad Radio said Mr. Aziz reiterated Baghdad's "firm and clear stand of welcoming the resolution... and the necessity to implement it in full."

Mr. Aziz stressed that the resolution "cannot be split into phases and noted that Iran has rejected the decision since it was

adopted," the radio said. Iraq said Iranian shells crashed into its port city of Basra as Mr. Perez de Cuellar's plane landed in Baghdad and each side accused the other of breaking a tacit ceasefire.

Iran said 17 people were killed or wounded in Iraqi attacks on Abadan, Khorramshahr and Sar-

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Jordanian writers urge U.N. chief to ensure end to war

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Writers Association on Monday called on United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to intensify efforts to ensure an end to the seven-year Iran-Iraq war.

In a cable to Mr. Perez de Cuellar, the association called on the U.N. chief to stand firmly in the face of "those tampering with freedom and peace" and "to rid the Iranian people and the Arab Nation and the whole world of the blood-baths and the acts of terror and destruction committed by the Iranian regime."

The West German government has already expressed thanks for Damascus and Tehran for brokering the release of Alfred Schmidt, who was reportedly held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. Mr. Cordes was expected to be freed later this week, according to reports from Damascus and Beirut.

Canon Oustreicher said during his talks in Damascus the Syrians explained to him that they felt that "the West German government and public opinion were more willing (than the British) to act on behalf of the hostages."

Well-informed sources told the Jordan Times that Bavarian state Prime Minister Joseph Strauss, who has always maintained good relations with Damascus, was instrumental in securing Syrian help.

Canon Oustreicher, who is director of the Church of England's international ministry, said he had concluded from his talks with Gen. Tlas that Syrian readiness and efforts to help the release of Mr. Waite depended on London's will to restore its relations with Syria. Britain severed diplomatic relations with Damascus last year after accusing the Syrians of being behind an alleged attempt to blow up an Israeli airplane in London.

"I came out with the conclusion that (the Syrians) believe that London needs to be more diplomatically active in its efforts to mend relations with Damascus," he said.

But the British clergyman said that the Syrians did not disclose any information about the well-being of Mr. Waite, who was abducted in Beirut in January during negotiations with unknown kidnappers.

Statements sent to international news agencies in Beirut, purportedly by the kidnappers, accused Mr. Waite of being an American agent.

According to Canon Oustreicher, who is a close friend of the kidnapped negotiator, the Syrians "have made it clear that they regard Mr. Waite as an innocent person who, with good motives, became too closely associated with the American establishment."

"They (the Syrians) made it very plain that they did not consider him a spy or an agent," he added.

Canon Oustreicher said his meeting with Gen. Tlas was "unexpected and unscheduled" and arranged through "Syrian friends."

The British cleric was heading a church mission of the Brussels-based Pax Christi movement. The group visited Tunis, Jordan, the Israeli-occupied territories and Syria.

Syrian efforts to free British hostages said to depend on 'diplomatic action from London'

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Syria has indicated that it is capable of helping secure freedom for British nationals kidnapped for British nationals kidnapped in Lebanon and that it will exert efforts to free the hostages if there was willingness on the part of London to improve its ties with Damascus, according to a Church of England envoy who visited the Syrian capital over the weekend.

The envoy, Canon Paul Oustreicher, told the Jordan Times on Monday that Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas told him in talks in Damascus that Syria's good relations with Iran would help Syria to help free the British hostages, including Anglican church envoy and hostage negotiator Terry Waite, who are believed to be held by pro-Syrian groups in Lebanon.

However, Canon Oustreicher, who made a brief stop-over in Amman on Monday, quoted Lieutenant-General Tlas as saying, helping the release of Mr. Waite and other British hostages was not "a priority" for Syria "yet."

"The Syrians stressed that helping in freeing the West German hostage (Rudolph Cordes) was their immediate priority," he said.

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EC assails Israel for building settlements in occupied lands

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers on Monday criticised Israel for resuming its policy of establishing settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

"They (the ministers) consider that every new and every existing settlement is in violation of international law and call upon the Israeli government to put an end to the illegal policy of settlements in the occupied territories," the statement read.

Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen told a news conference the EC's first-ever declaration on Israel's settlement drive was prompted by the recent inauguration of a new site on the West Bank.

He said the cornerstone of the new settlement had been laid by

Israel's minister of housing in what was clearly official approval of the policy.

The 12 member states believed new settlements, along with an increase in the number of settlers in existing settlements, risked jeopardising prospects for peace in the region, the statement said. "Progress towards a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region depends on the creation of a climate of confidence between the parties to the conflict," it said.

The statement was adopted at a routine meeting of EC foreign ministers.

The strongly worded EC declaration followed the Sept. 7 groundbreaking at the Avnei Hefetz settlement on the West Bank by Israeli Housing Minister

David Levy. Mr. Ellemann-Jensen, who chaired the EC meeting, said the community has been considering on open condemnation of Israel's settlement policy for some time.

No Moroccan entry to EC

In other decisions taken during Monday's meeting, the EC foreign ministers offered to forge closer links with Morocco but made clear its bid to join the bloc was doomed.

During informal discussions over lunch, the ministers also studied events in the Gulf — especially the peace mission by U.N. Secretary General Javier

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Al Shiraa publisher-editor shot and wounded by gunman in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Hassan Sabra, the Lebanese journalist who first disclosed the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran, was shot and wounded by a motorcycle gunman here Monday and doctors said he may have been blinded by the gunfire.

Mr. Sabra, 38, publisher-editor of the Beirut weekly magazine Al Shiraa, suffered four bullet wounds in the head, neck and chest from the mid-morning assassination attempt.

"He is in stable condition but might lose his eyesight from the head wound," said one doctor at the American University Hospital as Mr. Sabra emerged from three hours of surgery to remove the bullets.

Mr. Sabra made many enemies through his reporting in Al Shiraa on Iranian politics and the foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

He was heading to the magazine's office in west Beirut's Moutassib district in his chauffeur-



Hassan Sabra

driven white Mercedes-Benz when the assailant, riding pillion on a motorcycle, opened fire at 10 a.m.

Police said Mr. Sabra was in the back seat with his 12-year-old daughter Nissrin, who suffered a minor injury from a bullet that grazed the left side of her chest.

Mr. Sabra's driver, who doubles as a bodyguard, told reporters he jumped out of the car and fired his pistol at the fleeing assailants on the motorcycle.

"But I do not know whether the assailant was hit," the driver said.

Police said the body of an unidentified man bearing bullet wounds was taken to the American University Hospital two hours after the attack on Mr. Sabra, raising speculation one of the two motorcycle assailants may have been killed.

"We are trying to establish the identity of the dead man in order to determine whether he was involved in the assassination attempt," said a police spokesman.

Mr. Sabra's magazine became famous last October when it broke news of former U.S. National Security Adviser Robert

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U.S. presents new arms treaty draft on eve of Shevardnadze talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States offered on Monday what it said were concessions to the Soviet Union intended to hasten conclusion of an intermediate nuclear weaponry (INF) treaty.

The latest U.S. draft proposals, presented in Geneva and confirmed in Washington, came on the eve of talks here between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze aimed at paving the way for an arms accord.

But they made no reference to the future of nuclear warheads on the medium- and shorter-range missiles to be destroyed under a treaty — an issue Moscow has signalled is crucial to break the present impasse.

The proposals were presented at the Geneva arms negotiations on Monday based on a "double-zero option" calling for the global elimination of both sides' intermediate nuclear missiles.

They were confirmed at the White House where a statement from President Ronald Reagan echoed suggestions from Mr. Shevardnadze that non-nuclear armed rocketry should be retained.

U.S. delegation sources in Geneva said the new proposals also moved towards the Soviet view by agreeing that all missiles should be destroyed at agreed sites and under joint supervision.

The sources said the U.S. position now offered more flexibility on the timetable for destroying the missiles — apparently meaning that Washington was now ready to dismantle some of its own rockets at the first stage of the process.

But there was silence in Geneva and Washington on the warheads issue. Moscow says they must be destroyed under the treaty while the U.S. has argued that the accord should only cover missiles and launchers.

Although the Geneva negotiations would have to thrash out the fine print of any agreement, U.S. officials hope that Mr. Shevardnadze's talks with Mr. Reagan and Mr. Shultz will provide crucial impetus to completing the accord.

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Shamir retains aide involved in arms scandal

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has delayed plans to fire his aide Amir Nir whom U.S. investigators have sought to question concerning weapons sales to Iran, a spokesman said Monday.

Mr. Nir is one of four officials slated for dismissal by a power-sharing agreement between Mr. Shamir and his governing partner Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Three of the officials have been removed from their posts, two of them in the last week, Mr. Shamir's spokesman Yossi Ahimeir said.

"But no decision has been made concerning Nir," Ahimeir added in a telephone interview.

Israel Radio reported Friday that Mr. Shamir planned to fire Mr. Nir with the other officials. At the time, Ahimeir refused to comment on the report.

A government official, who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Shamir in-

itially planned to include Mr. Nir in the dismissals list but that he has hesitated, fearing it would be interpreted as "an admission of wrongdoing" in the Iran weapons affair.

Israeli leaders have admitted selling weapons to Iran but insisted they acted only in cooperation with the United States.

Israel has also denied any knowledge of alleged diversion of funds from the weapons sales to contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Mr. Nir, who flew to Tehran last year with former U.S. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane to discuss a swap of U.S. arms for American hostages held in Lebanon, was functioning normally and occasionally met Mr. Shamir on security matters, according to Ahimeir.

The Jerusalem Post reported Mr. Shamir and Mr. Peres had agreed to leave Mr. Nir in his post at least until the completion of U.S. probes of the sale of

American arms to Iran and any prosecutions arising from the affair in Washington.

Ahimeir declined comment on reports that U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Webster was in Israel and had urged Mr. Shamir to remove Mr. Nir, a close associate of former National Security Council aide Oliver North.

A U.S. embassy spokeswoman would not confirm or deny that Mr. Webster was in the country.

Mr. Nir, a former journalist, is the only major figure in the Iran arms affair not to have spoken in public about his role.

The other Israelis dismissed by Mr. Shamir are Yusef Ginat, an advisor on Arab affairs who left office last year, Nitza Shapira-Libai, the advisor on women's affairs who leaves office next month, and Israel Peleg, director of the press office who leaves office this week.

GCC to press for Egypt's return to Arab League

MUSCAT (R) — Oman's government-owned press said on Monday Gulf Arab foreign ministers would press for the return of Egypt to the Arab League at its next summit.

The newspapers said the ministers agreed their countries would resume diplomatic ties with Cairo if it was not permitted to return to full membership of the League.

They met in Jeddah on Saturday and Sunday at a conference of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Egypt was suspended from the League following the Camp David accord leading to its 1979 peace treaty with Israel. Most Arab States broke diplomatic links with Cairo as well.

Five GCC states — Saudi Ara-

bia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates — cut diplomatic ties with Egypt but Oman has maintained its links with Cairo.

The newspaper reports said the GCC favoured the return of Egypt to the League in recognition of the role taken by Cairo in "serving Arab interests."

Egypt is a strong supporter of Iraq in the Gulf war and the GCC states also generally support Baghdad.

The reports said if Cairo's re-entry to the League were

opposed, the GCC "has agreed to resume normal relations with Egypt."

Arab states such as Syria — a supporter of Iran in the war — have opposed Egypt's return to the League in the past.

The issue of Cairo's membership has been a stumbling block to the convening of an Arab summit. The last full meeting was held in 1982.

As the GCC ministers were ending their meeting on Sunday, diplomats reported Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam arrived in Jeddah on a surprise visit.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak visited Oman on Friday for talks with Sultan Qaboos on developments in the Gulf region.

French ships hunt for mines in Sea of Oman

PARIS (R) — A French minesweeping force has reached the Sea of Oman and started hunting for mines in international waters near the mouth of the Gulf.

Defence Minister Andre Giraud said on Monday.

Mr. Giraud said the French vessels began operating on Friday some 30 miles off Fujairah, part of the United Arab Emirates.

He said the French Navy was the first of several Western fleets to start clearing the sea lanes, where floating mines were discovered last month.

"They are there to protect international interests. Everyone wants the international waters in which they are working and which are used by tankers to be cleared of mines," the minister said on French radio.

On Aug. 17 France sent the minesweepers Garigliano, Cantho and Vinh-Long, with a support vessel, to clear mines outside the Gulf as the Iran-Iraq war threatened merchant shipping.

The United States is using minesweeping helicopters to clear the path in front of convoys of refueled Kuwaiti tankers under escort in the Gulf by the American navy.

The Pentagon is also sending six minesweepers to the Gulf to join about 34 U.S. warships already in the area.

Israel's West Bank administrator leaving post

TEL AVIV (R) — The head of the Israeli administration in the occupied West Bank is to leave his post this month, official sources said on Monday, but they denied reports he had quit in a policy dispute.

Brigadier-General Ephraim Sneh, 43, regarded as politically liberal, is to be replaced as head of the Israeli occupation administration in the West Bank, a military body that runs government services for the West Bank's 750,000 Palestinians.

The sources said Sneh had held the post for more than two years, longer than any of his predecessors, and his departure was a normal military change of command without political overtones.

The Jerusalem Post on Monday quoted informed sources as linking his departure to disagreements among senior officials on policy towards the Palestinian population in the occupied territories.

In the past two years, Israel has increased the use of controversial measures such as deportation and detention without trial to stifle resistance in the area.

Guadalcanal joins outbound Gulf convoy

ABOARD THE USS GUADALCANAL (Agencies) — The U.S. helicopter carrier Guadalcanal linked up with a convoy of refueled Kuwaiti tankers early Monday to conduct mine-sweeping operations as the ships headed out of the Gulf.

The 18,000-tonne helicopter carrier and other warships of the escort group went to the highest state of alert as they approached waters where Iranian speedboats have attacked commercial shipping.

Two of the RH-53 Sea Stallion mine sweepers from the Guadalcanal flew ahead of the group, scanning the waters and towing cables fitted with explosive cutters to break the tethers of any moored mines.

Captain Skip Dirren, the 43-year-old commander of the Guadalcanal, told members of a Pentagon news media pool aboard the ship that the United States knows there are mines in the Gulf, and knows where they are.

But he said there was no evidence that Iran had laid any explosive devices other than the old-fashioned spiked contact mines that have been found in the Gulf and in nearby waters recently.

The Sea Stallion helicopters on Sunday were operating for the

third day with sonar detectors that can detect even more sophisticated types of mines — those triggered by sound, water pressure or magnetic detection while resting on the seabed.

News reports have recently suggested that Libya, which was widely suspected of being responsible for a major mine scare in the Red Sea and Gulf of Suez in 1984, may have supplied Iran with more sophisticated devices.

Capt. Dirren would not comment on the report of Libyan aid to Iran.

U.S. officers have said previously that shipping channels in the northern Gulf were believed to have been mined by Iran, which has been at war with Iraq for seven years. The war spilled over into the Gulf in 1984.

The 177-kilometre Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the Gulf, is regarded by the United States as a high-risk area because of Iranian naval activity and the batteries of Chinese-built Silkworm missiles along the Iranian coast.

Iran itself would probably suffer most from a mining of the strait, because it depends on the narrow outlet for shipping all its oil exports.

Capt. Dirren said the navy had not turned up any mines because the primary mission of the Sea

Stallions and other mine-sweeping equipment was to guarantee safe passage of the tanker convoys. He said the convoys have not ventured into areas where mines were believed to be located.

There have been no mine scares involving the U.S.-escorted convoys since the 401,382-tonne supertanker Bridgeton struck a submerged mine in the shipping channel off Iran-held Farsi Island in the northern Gulf on July 24, during the first inbound voyage.

Monday's outbound group, the eighth one-way convoy since U.S. President Ronald Reagan began his programme of refueled Kuwaiti tankers, included the petroleum products carriers Surf City, and the Chesapeake City.

The Sealift Mediterranean, a U.S. merchant marine tanker, joined the convoy for the run through Hormuz.

Escort vessels in addition to the Guadalcanal included the guided missile frigates Rentz and Flatley.

Of the 11 government-owned Kuwaiti tankers designated for refueling, only one has yet to raise the U.S. flag — the 290,085-tonne Al Funtas, soon to be renamed Middleton.

U.S. officials say the Middleton will go into drydock in Dubai for conversion to a gas products carrier before it joins the refag-

ged fleet.

The U.S. government agreed to refuel the tankers to make them eligible for U.S. protection from attacks by Iran. Iran accuses Kuwait of aiding Iraq.

Since arriving in the Gulf in mid-July, the Sea Stallions have found numerous "mine-like objects" but no mines, U.S. officers say.

"Mine-like objects" in nava parlance are submerged things with defined shapes that give sharp resolution on a sonar scope.

"A very high percentage of the things you see turn out to be old refrigerators, oil drums and other sunken junk," said Commander Howard Nesbitt, 42, executive officer of the Guadalcanal.

Although the Sea Stallions have found no contact mines inside the Gulf, U.S. officers insist such mines are there — most likely in shipping channels that have not been checked and that the convoys are avoiding.

They said on Sunday there was no evidence to suggest that acoustic, magnetic or pressure-triggered mines were being sown in the Gulf.

"The important thing is, that we're keeping the convoys moving," said Commander Ed Saccio, head of the Sea Stallion squadron.

Death penalty asked in Tunisian bomb trial

TUNIS. Tunisia (AP) — State prosecutor Mohammad Zayani on Monday asked for the death penalty against 90 Muslim fundamentalists accused of plotting to overthrow the Tunisian government.

The defendants are charged with procuring arms, carrying out attacks on public forces, inciting to murder and inciting the Tunisian public to sedition.

Six are charged in connection with a series of bombings in August at Tunisian resort hotels

in which 13 people were injured, most of them European tourists.

Forty of the accused are being tried in absentia.

In his closing arguments before the court, Mr. Zayani said, "the facts and arguments prove that the Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI) prepared for a long time and planned violent actions to attack the state and overthrow the regime."

Among those on trial is Rachid Ghannouchi, president of the Islamic Tendency Move-

ment, a group banned by the government for its alleged mass-murdering of clashes with the government of President Habib Bourguiba.

The movement says the trial is part of a general crackdown on all opposition movements in Tunisia, particularly Islamic radicals.

More than 1,200 Islamic sympathisers reportedly are awaiting trial or have been sentenced since the beginning of the year on charges relating to disturbing public order.

Chad accuses Libya of violating air space

PARIS (R) — Chad accused Libya on Monday of repeatedly violating its air space despite a ceasefire reached between the two countries on Friday.

A statement by the Chadian High Command, distributed by the central African country's embassy in Paris, said Libyan combat planes flew over the northern localities of Zoumri, Zouar and Wour on seven occasions on Sunday.

"It said the Libyan overflights demonstrated Tripoli's bad faith towards the ceasefire, sponsored by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)."

On Friday, Chad accused Libya of bombing Wour and Ouinianga Kebir in violation of the ceasefire.

The ceasefire left Libya in control of the Aouzou Strip, a 114,000-square-kilometre stretch of desert along Chad and Libya's common border. The strip is claimed by both countries.

Chad captured the strip's only substantial settlement, the town of Aouzou, from Libyan forces on Aug. 8, but was driven out three weeks later. Libya had held the strip since annexing it in 1973.

Knesset rejects inquiry into 1982 Lebanon war

TEL AVIV (AP) — Parliament on Monday rejected a motion to establish a commission of inquiry into the role of former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

The motion came a month after Sharon broke his silence on the invasion, denying he lied to political leaders and army commanders about the war's aims. Sharon's speech was seen as an attempt to clear his record and boost his political ambitions.

Legislator Ran Cohen of the left-wing Citizens Rights Movement proposed the investigation, saying Sharon's version of events should not go unchallenged. "Sharon is a liar," said Cohen.

But Ehud Olmert of the right-wing Likud Bloc opposed such a commission. "Books have been written about it (the war). There is nothing new on the subject," he said.

The 120-member Knesset voted 77-13 to reject the motion. Sharon, who heads the Trade Ministry, was among the 80 absent legislators.

The Lebanon war was the most unpopular in Israel's history and divided the nation. More than 650 Israelis were killed and several thousand wounded between June 1982 and June 1985 when Israel withdrew the bulk of its troops from Lebanon.

Sharon was forced to resign as defence minister after he was

reprimanded by a commission of inquiry for failing to prevent the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians by Israeli-armed Falangist militiamen at refugee camps outside Beirut in September 1982.

Israeli military correspondents Zeev Schiff and Ehud Yaari wrote in their book the Lebanon War that Sharon misled the cabinet about his intentions to drive the Israeli army all the way to Beirut instead of stopping 40 kilometres into Lebanon.

"I personally was in a unit 60 kilometres north of the Israeli border on the first day of the war," said Cohen, a reserve colonel in a paratrooper unit. "We were under orders to continue north to Beirut."

During his parliament speech, Cohen waved a copy of what he said was a note written by Maj. Yonathan Harnik, commander of the Golani Brigade, to one of his men.

"Harnik asked his aide to bring him maps of Beirut," said Cohen. "That was on the first day of the war."

Harnik was killed a day later during an assault on Beaufort Castle in southern Lebanon.

Sharon said during his Aug. 11 speech at Tel Aviv University that political and military leaders were aware of the possibility that Israel might have to go to Beirut to drive out Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) commandos.

Begin's son attacks deputy minister for proposing expulsion of Palestinians

TEL AVIV (AP) — Former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's son lashed out Monday at the Deputy Defence Minister Michael Dekel for suggesting an expulsion of Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied lands to Arab countries.

Dekel voiced the proposal at the right-wing Herut Party's forum on Sunday and was immediately attacked by the former premier's son Binyamin Zeev Begin, also a Herut member.

"Those (Palestinians) who will not want to become loyal Israeli citizens will have to find a solution — by international agreements, not by force — in one of the Arab states," Dekel said in a speech broadcast on Israel Radio.

Dekel is the highest-ranking Israeli official to suggest that Arabs should be deported. He has raised a similar proposal last July and was sharply condemned

by left-wing leaders.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, leader of the left-leaning Labour Party, has called Dekel's idea the product of a "sick and distorted mind" while three other legislators have urged Dekel's dismissal.

On Sunday, Dekel was attacked from within his own party as the young Begin responded: "Those who speak of transferring (the Palestinians), I want to ask you where would you transfer the Herut Party?"

Begin, 43, who is viewed as a possible heir to his father in the party, also assaulted Dekel's idea in an Israel Television interview early Monday.

He accused Dekel of "diffusing the boundaries between the Herut and the monstrous theory represented by (Meir) Kahane," an extremist American-born legislator who has won a partial

ment seat in 1984 on a platform calling for the expulsion of Palestinians.

About 1.4 million Palestinians and some 65,000 Jewish settlers live in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, territories occupied by Israel after the 1967 Middle East war.

The Herut Party, which supports the Jewish settlement movement, objects to conceding any of the land to the Arabs in exchange for the peace treaty.

Begin flatly refused to answer questions about his father, 74, who resigned in 1983, a year after Israel's invasion of Lebanon. He has secluded himself in a Jerusalem apartment.

He never explained why he stepped down, but aides have said he was depressed over Israel's protracted involvement and casualties in Lebanon, where 650 Israelis were killed and several thousand wounded.

Israel, Hungary establish limited ties

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel and Hungary, which have had no diplomatic relations since the 1967 Middle East war, signed an agreement on Monday to establish interest offices in Budapest and Tel Aviv, army radio reported.

It said the agreement was signed in the Swiss Foreign Ministry in Bern by Israeli and Hungarian officials.

Poland and Israel last year set up a similar framework of limited diplomatic relations.

All Eastern European countries except Romania followed Moscow in severing ties with the

Jewish state during the 1967 war.

The Israeli announcement said the pact was designed to promote economic, trade, cultural and human relations and "facilitate consular matters" between the two countries.

The signing followed negotiations begun at Hungarian initiative over the summer. Israeli delegate Yeshayahu Anug said.

"It is a new start that augurs well for relations," said Anug, a deputy director general at the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Hungary's delegation was led by Janos Goerog, a Foreign Ministry division chief.

Shultz, Israeli MP discuss talks with Soviets

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz met with an Israeli legislator to work out a joint U.S.-Israeli position for the upcoming talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Israel Television has reported.

The meeting between Mr. Shultz and Simcha Dinitz, a former Israeli ambassador to the United States, took place on Saturday at Mr. Shultz's Washington residence, the television said Sunday.

Dinitz, a legislator from the left-leaning Labour Party, met with Mr. Shultz on behalf of Israeli Foreign Minister and Labour Party leader Shimon Peres.

Mr. Shultz will hold three days of talks with Mr. Shevardnadze starting Tuesday, while Peres is scheduled to meet with his Soviet counterpart at the U.N. General Assembly session in New York later this month.

The meeting between Mr. Shultz and Mr. Shevardnadze is expected to focus on the issue of disarmament, but Israeli media said last week that the two will also discuss the question of Soviet Jewish emigration.

In an apparent effort to ease American pressure over their human rights record, the Soviets have recently granted exit visas to about two dozen Jews.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	Koran
15:30	Programme review and children programme
16:20	Children's programme (Al Manahel)
16:50	Candid Camera
17:10	Small Wonder
18:00	Religious programme
18:30	Soccer
19:20	Programme on Jordan
19:50	Programme review and varieties
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic Series
21:30	Programme on Architecture
22:20	Magnum
23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Close down
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Champs Elysees
18:00	News in French
19:15	Energie et vie (documentary)
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Varities
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Double Trouble
21:10	Magnum
22:00	News in English
22:20	Mandela
23:10	Special programme: Special Movie
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 950 KHz. SW	
Tel. 77411-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	News
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:10	Just a Minute
11:00	Follow the Wind
12:00	News Summary
12:45	30-Minute Theatre
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session Contd.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:15	Instruments
14:30	Pop Talk
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instruments
16:30	Old Favorites
17:00	Science Report
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Top Twenty
18:30	Music
19:00	News Desk
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* An exhibition of plastic art by Mohammed Al Kewani at the Housing Bank Gallery (until Sept. 15).	
* An art exhibition by Mustafa Shaban at the French Cultural Centre (until Sept. 24).	
NEWS	
* The ABC News at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre. Tel. 6610267	
American Centre. 64371	
British Council. 6361478	
French Cultural Centre. 637009	
Goethe Institute. 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre. 634033	
Turkish Cultural Centre. 639777	
Hayat Arts Centre. 665195	
Hussein Youth City. 607016	
Y.W.C.A. 641793	
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251	
Amman Municipal Library. 637111	
Univ. of Jordan Library. 943555	
MUSEUMS	
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hays Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651762.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Ona (Chadid Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays). (10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Munt-	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (RJ) 5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:45	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
08:15	Cairo (RJ)
08:30	Amman (RJ)
08:45	Doha, Jeddah (RJ)
09:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:30	Cairo (RJ)
12:45	Larnaca (RJ)
12:55	New York, Vienna (RJ)
13:00	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
13:05	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
13:15	Istanbul (RJ)
13:45	Rome (RJ)
14:00	Larnaca (RJ)
14:05	Tripoli (RJ)
14:15	Riyadh (RJ)
14:30	Rome, Madrid, Damascus (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

13:20	Cairo (MS)
13:30	Moscow (SU)
13:30	Muscat, Doha (GF)
14:35	Kuwait (KU)
16:10	Riyadh (SV)
16:20	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:30	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:45	Cairo (RJ)
16:50	Larnaca (RJ)
16:55	New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:00	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
17:05	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
17:15	Istanbul (RJ)
17:45	Rome (RJ)
18:00	Larnaca (RJ)
18:05	Tripoli (RJ)
18:15	Riyadh (RJ)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

08:00	Amman (RJ)
11:30	Rome (RJ)
11:45	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
12:00	Tripoli (RJ)
12:00	Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:15	Belgrade, Geneva, Moscow (RJ)
13:00	London (RJ)
13:20	Cairo (RJ)
13:30	Istanbul (RJ)
14:00	Larnaca (RJ)
14:30	Kuwait (RJ)
16:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:50	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
17:00	Cairo (RJ)
17:15	Damascus (RJ)
17:30	Amman (RJ)
17:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
18:00	Tripoli (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

14:05	Cairo (MS)
14:05	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (RJ)
15:00	Moscow (SU)
15:35	Kuwait (KU)
17:40	Riyadh (SV)
18:35	Damascus (SA)
09:30	Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro (LA)

PRAYER TIMES

05:02	Fajr
06:21	Dhuha (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:31	Dhuhr
16:00	Asr
18:41	Maghrib
20:30	Isha

CURRENCY EXCHANGE

Monday rates

Local sellbuy rates in Jds

Belgian franc	90.3/ 91.9
Dutch guilder	166.8/ 169.6
French franc	56.3/ 57.1
Italian lire	26/ 26.4
Japanese yen (for 100)	236.1/ 240.9
Swedish crown	53.3/ 54.2
Swiss franc	226.2/ 230.9
U.K. sterling pound	558.7/ 567.5
U.S. dollar	341/ 345
W. German mark	187.7/ 191.2

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will continue to be hot, with northernly light to moderate winds. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	18/ 25.
Aqaba	26/ 38
Diserta	19/ 36
Jordan Valley	21/ 40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent. Aqaba 26 per

Jordan praises efforts for greater scientific cooperation

Concluding his speech, Prince Hassan wished the conference every success and expressed Jordan's readiness to extend support to the conferees.

**For inquiry, please call tel.: 08-53666, between
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

HOUSE FOR RENT
Villa 'A' at Alia housing with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, one guest washroom, sitting - dining room with fireplace , TV room, kitchen - pantry, maid's quarter, large garden with swimming pool.

For inquiry, please call tel.: 08-53666, between 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية اليومية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. تأسست 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Responsible Editor and Director General:
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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Reasserting role of U.N.

THE 42nd session of the U.N. General Assembly convenes in New York today amid concern over the fate of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's peace mission to the Gulf and the prospects for a summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The debates within the conference halls of the U.N., away from the limelight of the assembly hall, will once again attempt to tackle the some 140-item agenda of this year's session. The Middle East conflict, the Palestine case, will undoubtedly receive the same routine attention it has received in the past and will surely harvest even more verbose resolutions. In fact, it is highly probable that most of the items on this year's agenda will be debated as hotly and ineffectively as ever, and will reap resolutions duplicating, for the most part, the provisions of earlier resolutions with one marked difference: an additional paragraph or two.

Many delegates from the various regions of the world will also await anxiously the outcome of the Shultz-Shevardnadze talks in Washington, on which the fate of the anticipated agreement on intermediate-range nuclear weapons between Washington and Moscow will surely rest. The results of these talks between the foreign ministers of the U.S. and the Soviet Union will certainly determine the prospects for a superpower summit. The community of member countries of the United Nations have already taken political notice that the superpowers' agenda will concentrate, this year, at least on nuclear disarmament, the Gulf conflict, and measures to reduce tension in Latin America. Yet they are expected to pay lip service to the Middle East conflict, the Palestinian conflict to appease Arab sensitivities. Meanwhile, Arab delegates are expected to be dual-minded, concentrating on the two main crises in the Arab World, the Palestinian conflict and the Gulf war, with the latter receiving the lion's share of their genuine concern in view of the fact that it is now the more volatile and pressing issue. In this regard, full 'credit,' or rather 'responsibility,' for this alarming sense of priorities in the Arab agenda goes to the disunity in the ranks of the Arab countries vis-a-vis the Gulf conflict which, in turn, made it possible for the Gulf war to continue until now without an honourable end in sight.

The Arab delegates participating in this year's sessions will emerge feeling triumphant and will graduate from its multifaceted discussions feeling relieved for having scored similar verbal successes as their colleagues have done on previous occasions. After all that is why we have the U.N.; without these annual rituals, the weak, disillusioned, and frustrated, small or powerless countries will have no place to air their grievances in the company of fellow representatives of other, more powerful, countries.

No matter how much we try to belittle the political achievements of the U.N. system as a whole, one can hardly gloss over its marked achievements in economic, social and legal matters on the international as well as regional levels. Through the U.N., we have achieved outstanding advancements in the fields of health, environmental control, disarmament, and human rights, to name only a few. The struggle against apartheid, and similar crimes against humanity all over the world, cannot pass without recognition. We need the U.N. and its system and network of activities in spite of all its shortcomings which are, after all, due to the failings of the member states themselves. It is incumbent on us all to support the U.N. during this year's session by asking the representatives of the member states to rise above their petty differences and to concentrate on propositions which can advance peace and harmony among the peoples of the earth.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.N. failure

THE United Nations Security Council has not been able to reach a resolution condemning Israel's recent air raid on Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp in Lebanon. This gives us a feeling of deep concern and frustration because the international community has witnessed an open and unprovoked aggression on a U.N. member nation causing the death and injury of innocent civilians. Those countries which had been opposing any condemnation of Israel's aggression and barbaric attacks on civilian population, used to justify their position by expressing fear that such condemnation would harm the process of peace. They used to say that such condemnation by the council would result in negative reaction by Israel which might escalate its aggression and pursue aggressive acts against Arab states and avoid making peace with the Arabs. But this stand on the part of these countries has not yielded constructive results and did not reflect positively on the peace process. This stand if anything, has encouraged the Israelis to pursue their aggression and their air raids on innocent civilian Palestinians in their camps. It is a pity to see that such world countries continue to brag about principles, values and human rights as they continue to see Israel pursuing its terrorist activity and its killing of innocent civilians without any condemnation or any measure to deter the aggressors.

Al Dustour: Tehran continues to manoeuvre

AS was expected by observers, the U.N. secretary general has ended his visit to Tehran without arriving at any progress to achieve peace or to bring about a ceasefire in the Gulf conflict. The U.N. Security Council has dispatched Javier Perez de Cuellar to the Gulf region in the hope of urging the Tehran regime to implement its Resolution 598 aimed at ending the conflict between Iran and Iraq. Although Iran's statements so far did not explicitly indicate that Tehran refuses the resolution outright, yet Iran's behaviour, its escalation of tension during De Cuellar's visit and hints dropped by its leaders, all point to the fact that the rulers in Tehran adhere to their stand and refuse to implement the council resolution which enjoyed total world support. As Iran is refusing to comply to the will of the international community, the council is bound to meet again in the near future to hear a report from the secretary general on his mission and to assess the situation before taking further steps. Once it is clear to the council that Iran refuses the council resolution, measures are expected to be taken for imposing sanctions on that country. Once sanctions are imposed on the Iranians, the end of the Gulf conflict will be in sight, since Tehran rulers will be denied the means to continue their aggression.

The View from Second Circle

Some proposals for the next parliament

By Rami G. Khouri

THERE has been considerable speculation during the past year about whether a general election will be held soon to elect a new Lower House of Parliament, to replace the existing house whose term expires in January. Many interesting theories have been proposed about why an election will or will not be held, with people citing domestic, regional and international phenomena to support their viewpoints.

It has all been quite interesting to try to predict the course of parliamentary life in the near future, though I think we may have been focussing on the wrong aspect of our parliamentary life. More important than when a general election will be held, I suggest, is the question of the structure and role of parliament in Jordan today, on which I would offer the following points for consideration:

1) It is time for a fulltime, year-round parliament, to replace the present situation of parliamentarians who have other fulltime vocations and who carry out their parliamentary duties intermittently, when the house is called into session by the speaker. The range and complexity of public issues we face as a country are far greater than those which Jordanian parliamentarians had to deal with in the 50s and 60s.

Despite the increased capacity of the executive branch of government to deal with contemporary issues and challenges, it is unrealistic to expect ministers and their staffs to be able to cope with the wide range of subjects that our society faces today. Fulltime parliamentarians would instantly provide another 142 thoughtful and energetic minds to the pool of people involved in public policy formulation. This would attract even more of our most capable people to run for elections, and would considerably enrich the process of public debate. A fulltime parliament would necessarily bring with it some structural changes in how parliament functions, such as:

2) The formation of fulltime parliamentary committees, equipped with research facilities and professional staff members to help the members of parliament conduct the kind of dispassionate factual research that is an essential requirement of any legislative process based on principles of pluralism and majority votes. We deal today with national issues which will determine the course of our development for decades to come, including issues of education, economic development, the use of natural resources, opportunities for women, the status of children, water and bilateral and

regional relationships.

In the past two decades, executive decision-making in Jordan (and most of the Third World, to be fair to Jordan) has been characterised by inconsistent policies which can change with a change of government or minister. Fulltime research facilities and staff would allow the parliament to carry out another important function, which is:

3) Holding public committee hearings on issues of national concern. The pattern in Jordan to date has been to recognise a problem after it has become quite acute (such as unemployment, deficiencies in the civil service or a distorted education system out of step with labour market needs), and then to tackle it by holding a national conference. Follow-up in such cases is not always assured. We have the manpower in Jordan to anticipate such challenges at a much earlier stage, and we need an institutionalised mechanism to respond quicker, and before the problems become too big to deal with easily.

Parliamentary committee hearings are a good means to do this. Committees on agriculture, education, water, natural resources, industry, labour, tourism and other sectors would develop the kind of institutional expertise and national corporate memory we now lack. Our executive branch institutions, such as ministries, authorities and departments, have their hands full implementing current policies and programmes, and lack the time needed to step back from day-to-day pressures to assess trends in the next several decades and propose measures to meet future needs.

Parliamentary committee staffs would also be able to publish reports and proceedings of hearings, which would make vital information on public issues more readily available to the general public — an essential component of democratic life. The committees should also assume another crucial function, which is:

4) To hold hearings on key appointments of public officials. Jordan is lucky to be blessed with an extraordinarily high quality of senior officials in the public sector. Our weak point, however, is that as new officials are appointed, the public has no idea of the policies they will implement. By holding hearings on the appointments of senior officials, parliamentary committees could provide an invaluable service by clarifying the views of new appointees, and in the process would contribute substantially and intelligently to public policy options and discussions. Such hearings would also

help provide the sort of continuity which we sometimes lack today.

5) Parliament should also be more diligently involved in formulating fiscal policy, notably by holding far more extensive hearings on the annual national budget. The budget now is prepared by the executive branch and submitted to parliament about a month or so before the start of the new year. It would seem appropriate for the budget to be submitted to parliament at least three months before the start of the fiscal year, which would give time for standing parliamentary committees to analyse the budget in far greater detail with the executive branch of government.

A stronger parliamentary role in fiscal policy would probably lead to more accurate budget forecasts, and would thereby help alleviate the chronic problem of overspending and annual reliance on end-of-the-year borrowings which are only referred to parliament after the fact. Our national debt has grown to the point where we cannot easily expect to keep borrowing, domestically or internationally, without having to pay a price either in our debt service ratio or in the credibility of our economic management capabilities.

6) Parliament should also have a more substantive role in assuring that our executive branch performs to its best abilities. Committee hearings would be one mechanism by which parliament could hold executive branch officials and institutions more accountable before the general public. More stringent public accountability procedures would be very useful in helping assure that our limited financial resources are allocated in the most appropriate manner, and that decisions on allocations are then implemented in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

7) And finally, it seems to me that a fulltime parliament with research staff and facilities and standing committees would be the most effective way to tap the full human and intellectual resources of our country — a country which is renowned for exporting top quality manpower. One of our ironic weaknesses as a country that exports brains is that we seem to lack independent think tanks and research organisations that can contribute to debates on public policy formulation. The private sector has not played this role, and neither have our educational institutions. Parliament is the appropriate forum for such endeavours — because parliament is constitutionally charged with the task of legislating, and is politically delegated to represent the wishes of the people.



A Sunday in South Lebanon

By Paul Fielder

THE most popular beach in South Lebanon is the "Workers Liberation" beach at Rumaila, just north of Sidon. On any Sunday throughout the summer the beach is packed with sunbathers, swimmers, singers and dancers, and people who bring an ample Lebanese lunch, often starting a barbecue to grill kebabs and kofta. People come from all over — from Beqaa, from Beirut, and most notably from the deep south, where it is forbidden to drink alcohol and to old parties. Women sunbathe in bikinis or fashionable one-piece, and splash in the water with boyfriends, brothers or cousins.

Rumaila falls in the Communist "canton," a political military centre which does a roaring trade in alcohol. The few wealthy citizens from Sidon, where the sale of alcohol is still banned except in one fashionable restaurant owned by a member of the Junblatt family, come to buy their beer, whisky and beer, or lunch in the thriving restaurants overlooking the sea. It is from Rumaila that Lebanon's newest and most lively radio station broadcasts — *Saut al-Sha'b*, the voice of the people — on which Fairuz's son, Ziad Rahbani, known as the "cousin of Lebanon" has a regular irreverent slot of music and jokes.

From "Workers Liberation" beach you can just about hear the Israeli jets going over 'Ain Al Hilwa Palestinian camp in the afternoon. Raids on the camp, inflicting loss of life and damage, have always taken place in the afternoon. So the people in the camp have changed their schedules — UNRWA schools finish at lunch time and kindergartens do not operate an afternoon session. Sunday is quite a likely day for the Israelis to make a dummy run over the camp. Saturday having been a day of rest. (This article was printed before the Israeli raids of Sept. 5, a Saturday).

Although the air raids inflicting casualties and damage have been recorded in the Western media, little is made of the sometimes nightly raids by jets or helicopter gunships. Pandemonium breaks out in the camp as the clatter of helicopters is followed by the deafening rush of two or three flares fired from above. At first no-one is sure whether the sound denotes rockets or just flares. Thereafter, for ten minutes or more the camp is lit as bright as day as people scurry for shelter. In the distance is the sound of the air raid siren, while all around are shouts and screams of children as they rush from roofs and open spaces. In the beginning people would stay put to watch the effects of the raid, but following the deaths of so many innocent bystanders they have learnt their

lesson. And it is only five years since similar flares were used to light the skies over Sabra and Shatila camps in Beirut. This year has been a hard one for children in the camp. Schools were closed for four months during the clashes between the Palestinians and Amal, another disrupted academic year. And in the meantime the raids have increased, adding an extra dimension to night time terror. Over the last year the camp has been filled by Palestinian refugees fleeing the south from the daily intimidation and harassment faced by residents of Bourj Al Shimali, Bass and Rashidiyya camps. It is difficult to know exactly how many people live in Ain Al Hilwa, since the only statistics are from UNRWA, who only record registered refugees, but local people put the figure at 80,000.

In effect, the siege has not been lifted from Rashidiyya, just south of Tyre, and exit and entry from the camp are still fraught with danger. In the other two camps the residents are subject to the constant fear of kidnap and murder. During recent weeks ten women have been taken, including one who works for a local humanitarian organisation. Bodies of kidnapped Palestinian men have been found murdered and horribly mutilated and nobody knows the fate of the others who have disappeared. Although Palestinians have been the principal victims of the brutality in Tyre, it has cut across the bounds of all confessions and political persuasions. Virtually all members of the Lebanese Communist Party have fled the south, and local people report attacks on Sunni Muslims, the small Christian community, and even on Shi'ites who are known not to be toeing the Amal line. Tyre is governed by the firm hand of Amal, and on the checkpoint leading from Bass to the city centre enormous pictures of Musa Sadr and the Imam Khomeini act as spiritual guardians to ensure the strict morality of no mixed bathing, no alcohol and decorous public behaviour.

In the meantime there is a growing community of Iranians in and around Tyre, who are reported to be buying up land and marrying into the local Shi'ite community. These days it is not unusual to be passed on the Beirut-Tyre highway by a Volvo packed with bearded young men and Iranian music blaring from the open window. For the Christian community east of Sidon progress since the exodus of 1985 has been a story of two steps forward and one step back. Originally a community of 60,000 strong, the return of Christian villagers had continued at a steady pace from Jezzine, the border strip and east Beirut until it reached some 14,000 towards

the end of last year. Following the war between Amal and the Palestinians a further 4-5,000 Christians left the area giving a further setback to the work of Father Salim Ghazal, the architect of their return. He is now concentrating on the rehabilitation of Maghdusha, which was the central battleground between the warring groups. There are currently 110 families in Maghdusha, mostly comprising women and old men. The town has all the hallmarks of a host of Lebanese towns which have been blitzed by the civil war — the streets are full of rubble and rubbish, most houses are deserted, with pock-marked walls and the blackened bleaches of fire and smoke. An old Christian plumber is repairing the water supplies on a street by street basis, although there is still no indication of when electricity will be reconnected. The Palestinian frontline is still discernible — walls bear the slogans of separate Palestinian factions, an arrow points south and bears the shaky but legible English inscription "Palestine".

The town is guarded by a new militia called *Jaish Al Ansar*, whose young men in smart uniforms have clearly undergone some form of military training. The unit is identified with Amal, and it is said that it was bred out of the universal criticism levelled at Amal, and its barbaric behaviour during the "war of the camps". *Jaish Al Ansar* members are courteous and polite, and seem to be doing a reasonable job of providing security and preventing large-scale looting of homes. When school children finish their terms in East Beirut or Jezzine, it is hoped that there will be a larger return of the town's inhabitants.

If there is one experience of misery that binds all the Lebanese together, whatever confession or nationality, it is the collapse of the Lebanese pound. In 1985 the Lebanese pound was still under 10 to the dollar — now it has passed the 200 mark. For an economy entirely dependent on imported goods and lacking adequate state-financed services the effects on ordinary family life are dramatic — families are faced with the choice of having medical treatment or eating. Local humanitarian organisations report cases where parents have abandoned hope for one sick child in order to pay the school fees of the other children.

Back on the beach at Rumaila, all confessions, Christians, Muslims and Druze, come together for an afternoon's enjoyment, to swim, laugh and forget. Amid the brown flesh and sun-tan oil are the memories of the peace that was once the norm in Lebanon — Middle East International, London.

British unions learn to live with Thatcher

By Deborah Telford
Reuter

BLACKPOOL, England — Britain's trade union leaders are smartening themselves up, toning down their rhetoric of class struggle and talking high-tech — all because of the woman most of them love to hate, Margaret Thatcher. Her re-election in June for five more years has prodded the leaders of the British labour movement into realising that they must change their image and broaden their appeal.

Since Thatcher was first elected in 1979, high unemployment, changing job patterns, her privatisation policies and laws to curb union strength have seriously eroded support for unions whose political power peaked in the 1970s.

Membership of the Trade Union Congress (TUC), the unions' umbrella group, has plummeted 25 per cent to just over nine million, the same number as the number of shareholders in Britain.

Jobs have disappeared in the traditionally unionised state sector and manual industries while union organisation is weak in new high-tech and white-collar jobs that have replaced them.

A Mori opinion poll this month showed a majority of members think their unions are dominated by extremists, out of touch with rank and file and too closely linked with the opposition Labour Party.

At the TUC's first post-election conference this month, most delegates scoffed at charges that they were stuck in the 1930s mould of cloth-capped Communist-inspired strikers who regarded unions primarily as instruments of class struggle.

But they rose to the challenge of shaking off the image by voting for the TUC to finance union recruitment and advertising drives as well as undertaking a major review of how unions should adapt to modern society.

They also agreed to take a fresh look at employee share ownership schemes, agreeing it was ridiculous to expect a growing number of share owners to support compulsory renationalisation under a future Labour government.

But the TUC would not budge from supporting Labour's defence policy of unilateral disarmament, although some union leaders said it lost the party votes and should be put to a referendum.

Some unions have already tried to boost their membership by trying to recruit from an "underclass" of low-paid, part-time and female workers.

The electricians' union (EETU), which is on the right-wing of the trade union movement, has adopted a business approach, offering members stockbroking advice, the use of lavish holiday homes and discounts on goods.

Opinion in the labour movement is split over such moves, with left-wing unions criticising them as materialistic and selling out to employers.

Arthur Scargill, left-wing leader of the National Miners' Union, said the moves were "prostituting the principles of the trade union movement."

But when Scargill, who led the coalminers during Britain's longest strike from March 1984 to March 1985, attempted to stop part of the TUC review, his efforts were overruled.

"He was trounced, absolutely trounced. That tells you the mood of the movement," Bill

Jordan, leader of Britain's second biggest union, the Engineers Union, told Reuters.

But although other right-wing union leaders jibed during the conference that Scargill was living in "cloud cuckoo land," support for some of his ideas remains strong.

He and many other union leaders object to no-strike deals which unions, mainly the EETU, have signed with employers.

The deals are usually signed between unions and foreign companies operating in Britain and provide for compulsory and binding arbitration.

Most unions say they defy the basic tenets of unionism by denying workers the right to withdraw labour.

"Although the TUC avoided a bitter debate over the deals, by calling for a 12-month review of them, political analysts say the issue could in the longer term seriously hamper attempts to modernise the movement."

EETU leader Eric Hammond refuses to stop the deals and has threatened to ballot his members on leaving the TUC if they are condemned. "We are the future and the future will not go away," Hammond told the conference.

Jordan, whose union has defended the no-strike deals, is convinced the labour movement can not only survive, but thrive once it changes its image.

"There are people in the trade union movement who actually love the conflict itself, they see the system as corrupt and they want to bring the system down," Jordan told Reuters.

"They are yesterday's men. The average trade union officials coming on stream know they face a different world and that they have to deal with the current legislation," he said.

How CIA licked the philately business

By Michael White

WASHINGTON — At last, the CIA covert action caper to top them all. Guess which agency's staff paid rockbottom prices for valuable government property, virtually unobtainable elsewhere, sold the goods to a middleman and diverted the profits into their own pockets? Right first time.

And guess how their secret was discovered? Right again. Through a leak to the press. In the cut-throat world of stamp collection, where ambition and personal rivalry mingle with big bucks, it could only be a matter of time before someone discovered the true identity of the anonymous "business" in northern Virginia which sold 85 misprinted — and therefore priceless — U.S. postage stamps to Mr. Jacques Schiff, a philatelist, who lives in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey.

A mere 10 months after the Irangate scandal burst on an astonished world "Stampgate" hit front pages, thanks not to a Beirut magazine this time but to an even more obscure organ: Linn's Stamp News, whose Washington correspondent, Charles Yeager, must now surely be in line for a Pulitzer prize.

Until last week all that was known was that workers at a Virginia business — actually the CIA in the Washington suburb of Langley — had sold the most spectacular set of misprints to emerge from the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing since Curtiss JN4-H biplane was printed upside down in 1918: 85 copies of the \$1 candlestick stamp issued in late 1985 and significant

for the fact that, unlike the other 28 million printed, the candles were burning upside down.

What appears to have happened is that employees of the CIA, which is awash with intelligence analysts making sophisticated judgments on scraps of raw data like spy satellite photos and stamps, spotted the error on a 95-stamp sheet purchased at the local post office.

They did so after nine had been used and one accidentally torn. On the advice of a local dealer they sold the remaining 85 stamps to Mr. Schiff for a "low five-figure" sum, a convincing detail since — as with those underpriced TOW missiles and Hawks sold to Iran via Manucher Ghorbanifar — they could be worth \$10 million on the open market

— \$115,000 each. One 1918 biplane stamp has fetched \$200,000 before now.

"They said they worked in an office where they found the stamps. They claimed they didn't want their names used in any way because their boss might find out," recalled Mr. Schiff, a major dealer, who announced his purchase to the trade a month later in May 1986. But it was only when the Bureau of Engraving held its own inquiry that the facts were put together and finally published by Mr. Yeager with the help of a suspicious stamp dealer. He obtained the bureau's report under the Freedom of Information Act. "I was sort of wondering whether the money had gone to the contras," he told the New York Times — The Guardian.

LETTERS

Please help

To the Editor:

I WAS most interested to read the article about backache in the Jordan Times (Sept. 7). I do agree with Professor Spangfort's statement that doctors can seldom help backache sufferers.

I have had back problems for many years as a result of an accident. Doctors could do nothing, and I was in agony for a long time until someone advised me to go to a chiropractor. Since then I have had regular treatment in Britain, which has kept me "mobile". I have now been in Amman for five weeks and am in urgent need of treatment. Is there a chiropractor available who can help me? Surely the football team must know of one! If so please write to me at P.O. Box 184540, Amman.

Chris Larter

Portraits of the Arab World

By Nadia Hijab

LAST WEEK'S showing of Egyptian director Youssef Chahine's *The Land* at the National Film Theatre is a first in more ways than one. It is the first of 21 films from the Arab World that will be shown at the NFT through September and October, and it is the first time that an Arab film festival has been held in London, 70 years after the first Arab film was made, in Cairo.

British audiences will have the chance to see not just classics like *The Land*, which Chahine made in 1969 about a young peasant who rebels against the loss of his only source of livelihood. More recent works are on offer, like the highly acclaimed *City Dreams* by Syria's Mohammad Malas. This is a partly autobiographical tale of a little boy whose world shifts between the safety of home and the tumultuous Damascus of the 1950s with its mixture of military coups, elections, the Suez crisis and aspirations to Arab unity.

Another Syrian film on show is *Douraid Lahham's* epic *The Frontiers*. Lahham's caustic treatment of Arab regimes has just as much relevance to Leyant audiences as to those in North Africa, where his shows sell out.

There is a strong showing by

Algerian directors, who have produced some of the best Arab cinema over the years. Mohammad Lakhdar-Hamina's *Years of the Brazier*, which won the 1975 Palme d'Or at Cannes, focuses on two villages struck by drought and typhoid that still manage to mount an uprising against the French colonialists.

But not all problems disappear with independence — and some get worse. This is the message behind Abdel Aziz Torbi's *Noua*, which portrays daily life in post-independence Algeria. Social comedy is the hallmark of Slim Riad's work, as seen in Hassan Hassan who sees life through a cab windscreen.

Meanwhile, other Egyptian classics will be shown; like Chahine's *The Sparrow* which tackles the Arab defeat in the June war of 1967 and which was banned for many years in much of the Arab World.

And director Salah Abu Seif, who has been described as the "father of Egyptian realism," is represented by *The Water Carrier* is Dead which portrays life in a poor quarter of Cairo. Ali Badrakhan's *Hunger* has a poignant message for all Third World countries, which Hussein Kamal's *The Postman* looks at the still

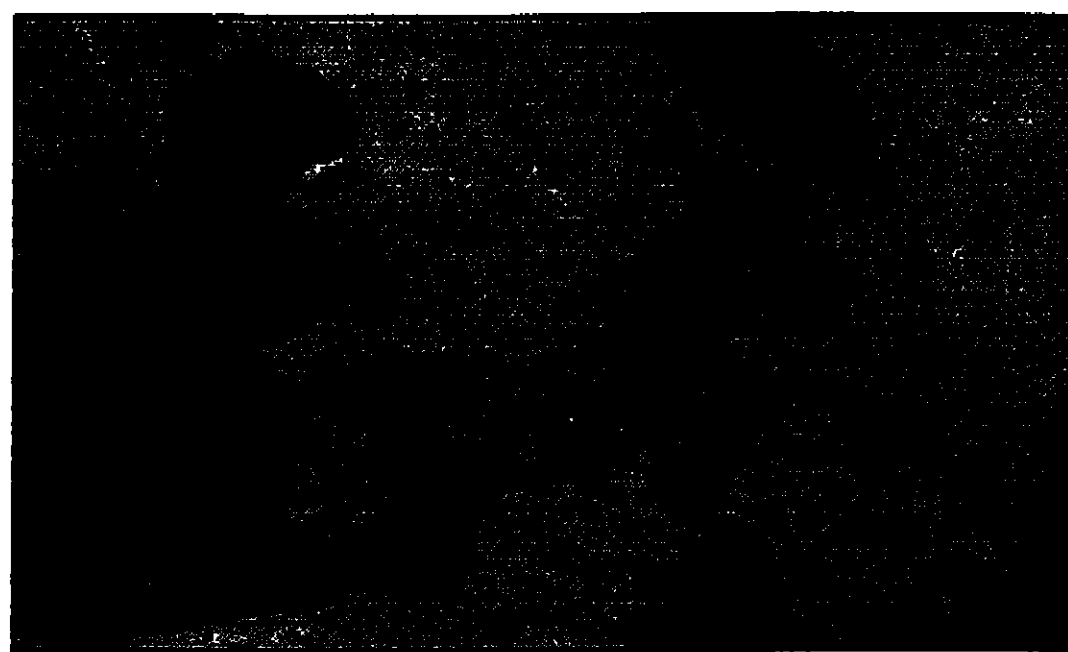
powerful social custom of linking family-honour to the sexual purity of women, and the tragedy this visits on society.

Other films in the festival include, from the Gulf, Kuwaiti director Khaled Sadiq's *The Cruel Sea*; from Lebanon, Maroun Baghdati's masterpiece on the civil war, *Little Wars*, and Bourhan Alawi's *Kafir Qassem*, the moving reconstruction of the Israeli massacre in that Palestinian village.

That the festival has taken place at all, is thanks to nearly two years work and not a little frustration on the part of Middle East specialists Rose Issa, manager of Kufa Gallery, and Jana Gough, a freelance editor.

"I became really determined to bring more Arab cinema to English-speaking audiences when I went to see a film that Time Out had described as the 'best Arab film,'" says Issa. "I don't want to mention the film's name, because a lot of hard work had gone into it, but it certainly wasn't the best."

Rose is in a position to know, having been involved in setting up the first Arab film festival in Paris, now in its fifth year, and having worked at the Cannes festival for three years. Jana Gough was equally deter-



A scene from Moroccan film Traces

mined: "I'd been a member of the NFT ever since I can remember. As a British cinegoer I had the opportunity to see films from places like Cuba and Vietnam — but rarely an Arab film, although I knew the NFT tried to get them."

Little is known about Arab cinema in the English-speaking world: International film dictionaries regularly omit even such key figures as Youssef Chahine, the festival organisers point out. This is partly the fault of Arab

governments, which do not yet take film-making seriously enough.

"Almost none of the Arab countries has a cinemathèque, and there is little awareness of the importance of preserving films and having reference copies. Really the history of Arab cinema is at risk," Rose says worriedly. "Our dream," adds Jana, "is to build an archive of Arab cinema. Meanwhile, they're settling for the less ambitious option of persuading bodies like the British

Film Institute to purchase classics and keep them in their libraries. The fact that the London Arab film festival is to be an annual event will certainly help.

Through the festival, the organisers hope, British audiences will be introduced to the many Arab "talented, non-conformist directors, motivated by the desire to analyse their country's social history and to denounce not only the burden of inherited traditions, but also man's exploitation of man" — The Guardian.

Rogue radio operator just another hassle in Gulf

By Jeffrey Bartholet

Reuter

DUBAI — The ship's captain, contacted by an Iranian gunboat demanding to know what he was carrying, was startled when a voice breaks into the radio link to answer:

"Bombs, rockets, atom bombs."

The "Filipino monkey" had struck again.

It's meant to be a joke. But the captains are not amused these days with tension running high in the Gulf and Iranian warships liable to fire on foreign merchant ships.

The renegade radio operator known as the "Filipino monkey" has become notorious in the radio rooms of the southern Gulf.

Shippers do not know the nationality of the operator, who started off several years back and revelled in abusing Filipino sailors on ships plying the Gulf. They think the "Filipino monkey" now has many imitators.

The original sobriquet was derived from the derogatory phrase he commonly squealed over the VHF shipping channel to abuse Filipino seamen, often in the eerie hours of the graveyard watch.

In a region where ships have to run the gauntlet of mines and missiles, the "Filipino monkey" is a relatively minor irritant. But it is one skipper can do without.

"If I ever find one (like him) on one of my boats, I'll throw him right off," said one ex-captain, now a shipping agent.

Shipping agents who monitor the radio waves say the rogue operator usually starts by baiting Filipino seamen with barbs like "Filipino, Filipino, punky Filipino."

"Then some Filipino seaman will get on to abuse him," the agent said.

"There might be a Greek who gets on to stick up for the Filipinos, and then he curses the Greek."

Filipinos make up many of the crews operating in the Gulf.

One shipping source said the "Filipino monkey" was a form of entertainment for crews who risked their lives in the midst of a foreign war.

Crew members entering the war zone can treble their pay with danger money.

The risks are real. More than 350 ships have been attacked since the Iran-Iraq war spilled over into the sea lanes in 1981. Iraq attacks from the air, sending warplanes to fire missiles at tankers ferrying Iran's oil out of the Gulf.

Iran attacks from the sea. Because Iraq no longer ships oil through the waterway, Iran targets foreign vessels operating to and from Gulf states like Kuwait which support Iraq in the war.

The Iranian navy sends its gunboats to shell or shoot missiles at ships, or revolutionary guards in high-speed launches will mount hit-and-run raids, raking vessels with machinegun fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

The Iranian navy regularly intercepts shipping entering the Gulf, exercising its right to check if they are carrying war materiel for Iraq.

Special manuals for ships plying the Gulf offer captains specific advice.

If challenged by an Iranian gunboat, "just state name and nationality ... do not give the destination/previous port information."

The Iranians sometimes locate vessels by monitoring radio signals — encouraging most ships to observe radio silence.

Abusive chatter over VHF channels is illegal worldwide, but not uncommon. It is difficult to track violators.

A few radiomen believe the "Filipino monkey" is based on an offshore oil rig in the region.

"Always during the night watch, you get guys who go stir crazy," said the ex-captain.

He added a favourite pastime for lonely radio operators in his day was imitating farmyard noises — The Washington Post.

New Testament research becomes a more liberal, international affair

Research into the New Testament has become more liberal over the years. The work of Catholics and those of various strands of Protestantism are often quoted side-by-side without discrimination. The subject has acquired a more international flavour, with international congresses, the use of guest lectures and the publication of works internationally. More German theological books are translated than ever before, although many American publishers complain about their verbosity. Last month 400 theologians from all confessions met in Göttingen to talk about New Testament research. Karl-Alfred Olin reported in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

THE congress, organised by the New Testament society which has the Latin name of *Studium Novi Testamenti Societas*, was chaired by Bishop Eduard Lohse, of Hagenov, a former rector of Göttingen University.

The New Testament society was established after the war and is the only international association of professors of this discipline. It meets once a year, with each involved country taking turn as host.

The congress last took place in West Germany 10 years ago. Göttingen was chosen to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Georg-August University in the city.

An overall view of New Testament research emerged during the conference and several contentious matters were discussed.

Themes extended from the text of the New Testament, its historical, cultural and social environment, its theological significance and questions such as how to make the contents comprehensible to people today.

More contentious issues were discussed in various seminars where researchers related their own findings.

Many seminars discussed the relationship of belief, thought and

the written word to the Jews of the time, the first generation of Christians and the social environment of early Christianity.

The Romans did not at first regard Christians as an independent religious congregation but as a special group within the Jewish religion.

This meant that Christians came under the protection regulations for approved religions, religious laws.

Christians themselves only gradually drew apart from Judaism, and there was tension in this.

Research into the New Testament has been carried out mutually by all confessions since the Second Vatican Council and the appreciation of modern biblical research. Theological students only a generation ago had only heard of a single book by a Catholic researcher in lectures in Protestant faculties. Today, academic works from Evangelical, Anglican, and Catholic research are quoted indiscriminately alongside each other in footnotes.

They found their expression in the New Testament which eventually led to a division between the two congregations.

Discoveries of Jewish and Christian writings of the period have cast new light on the spiritual world of the time. There is still dispute about the relationships between the writings of the New Testament, the Gospels, Jewish Hellenism that came to light in the Qumran scrolls, and the other currents in early Judaism.

More is getting to be known about the social and political facts of the beginnings of Christianity and its Jewish, Greek, Roman environment. Specialists differ in their views, however.

The Americans mainly have prepared the ground for research into Biblical social history. This, just as much as psychological considerations, is vital for a development of New Testament studies. But it is only one aid among

many. Many centuries ago theologians examined the significance of literary and historical methodology for an understanding of the Bible. Experts have now learned to use the other sciences in their research. This has led to constant change in their working methods.

Insights into the dependence of choice of word and the rhythm of a sentence help to an understanding of the sentence and a knowledge of modern rhetoric helps for a better understanding of the

ethos of St. Paul's theology, the demand for an emulation of Christ.

Another theme was the relationship that exists in St. Paul's letters between Christ's doctrine and the relationship to the earthly Jesus.

The question of the establishment of an authentic wording of the Bible and the general development of a stable canon of Biblical scripture were also discussed.

The New Testament was once not the source for Christianity, as it is today. The Old Testament was. It took many centuries before the New Testament became established in all churches.

One seminar in Göttingen was concerned with prayer, divine service and spirituality in the New Testament, with the aid of the Letter to the Hebrews in which Paul's doctrine of justification by faith is expounded. These are themes that are increasingly examined in churches.

This is also true for the question how did members of the congregations listen to the biblical text in the period from which the New Testament originated, and how can people today understand what is written in the Bible?

The Bible and its readers and the people who heard it, is a vital theme for many churches.

Research into the New Testament has been carried out mutually by all confessions since the Second Vatican Council and the appreciation of modern biblical research.

Theological students only a generation ago had only heard of a single book by a Catholic researcher in lectures in Protestant faculties.

Today, academic works from Evangelical, Anglican and Catholic research are quoted indiscriminately alongside each other in footnotes.

After the last war the influence of German research was considerable. Then many German academics went to America. Now

there is a new generation of young American academics.

There are flourishing relations between America, Germany and the other European countries by cooperation in the publication of academic works, guest lectures and international congresses.

German theological books are more frequently translated than before. But many American publishers complain that many German academics are too verbose, making them unpublishable in the U.S.

In America there is an increased relationship between New Testament theology and practical disciplines such as

psychology and educational theory.

The training of theological students in Germany is regarded as robust. But there are more complaints than there used to be in theological faculties that the study of Greek and Hebrew is too difficult and that many pastors do not prepare their sermons from a knowledge of the Bible in the original.

Complaints were also heard at seminars and lectures that it was not made sufficiently clear to students how a knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew texts opened up the meaning of the Bible and dogma.

AIDS virus may be developing a baffling array of new strains

By Royce Reinberger

WASHINGTON — New research suggests that the AIDS virus, which once appeared to be a manageable single entity, is a complex family of rapidly mutating viruses that, like a clever

weapon, can constantly change its weapons, its camouflage, its defences and even its targets in the body.

As a result of the mutations in acquired immune deficiency syndrome viruses, there are presumed to be thousands of slightly different forms. Some possibly have acquired new specialised abilities to be transmitted, to infect different tissues, to evade the immune system or to resist drug treatments.

According to findings at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the AIDS virus is mutating its genetic code as much as five times faster than the influenza virus, thought until now to be the fastest in mutating. The genes of the AIDS virus are mutating between one million and 10 million times faster than the genes of human beings.

The flu virus has taken 50 years to evolve as much as the AIDS virus has in the last 10 years, the

Los Alamos study shows. New flu vaccines must be developed every few years to keep up with the changes.

Because genetic mutations lead to modifications of the virus's molecular structure, it is possible that if the right changes occur, the virus's behaviour would change.

Some AIDS researchers suspect that some of the variations in the virus that are already known are the result of mutations in the recent past.

There is even evidence that within the lifetime of any one AIDS patient, the original strain of virus that began the infection can give rise to several new strains, all of which continue to proliferate.

The Los Alamos finding "casts bewildering shadows" across the prospects for reliable diagnosis, broadly effective treatment and a vaccine that will block all forms of the virus, according to Gerald Myers, a geneticist who measured the rate of change at the New Mexico laboratory.

Los Alamos, better known for its research on nuclear weapons, operates a computerised AIDS virus data base. It contains the specific genetic codes, or what is

a technically difficult process. Researchers have known for some time that the AIDS virus can mutate, spawning slightly differing lineages. And they have been aware of major differences that distinguish two families of AIDS viruses, called Human Immunodeficiency Virus 1, or HIV-1, and Human Immunodeficiency Virus 2, HIV-2.

HIV-1 includes the vast majority of AIDS cases around the world but a few cases caused by HIV-2 have been found in West Africa and France. There are preliminary reports of a third and possibly a fourth family.

Although AIDS virus classification has few agreed-upon rules, differences within a family are usually very small while those between families are relatively large. The Los Alamos findings reveal that the rate of change is considerably faster than previously assumed.

Mr. Myers' study has led him to estimate that the best-known major families HIV-1 and HIV-2, split about 40 years ago, long before the disease was recognised.

Although there are no known viruses from that time, Mr. Myers was able to calculate the rate at

which the viruses have been accumulating changes in the past decade and to calculate that it would require about four decades to accumulate the number of differences between the two families.

Mr. Myers suggested that if large enough changes in the AIDS virus arise, some strains could be different enough that a vaccine against one fails to protect against another.

For the same reasons, the AIDS antibody test could fail to detect the presence of an infection. The test looks for a specific kind of antibody and if the person's immune system has manufactured a different one — appropriate to a mutated AIDS virus — the test could fail.

U.S. officials have announced the first known case in which a laboratory worker became infected with the AIDS virus as a result of working with it. The New York Times reported from Washington.

Officials said that the worker was growing the virus in large amounts whose concentrations far exceeded the amount that most lab workers deal with or that the public could be exposed to.

U.S. socialite tells of amorous times

By Alex Brummer

WASHINGTON — One of Washington's most famed and apparently lascivious socialites is planning a memoir which may put Donna Rice's accounts of life aboard the yacht *Monkey Business* in the shade.

Joan Braden, mother of eight and spouse to the journalist and broadcaster, Tom Braden — the last of Washington's Camelot liberals — is proposing to tell all about her intimate relationships with three giants of the American political scene, the late Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller, Senator Robert Kennedy and Mr. Robert McNamara.

The 80-page book proposal, which is currently doing the rounds of the New York publishing house with a relatively modest (by U.S. standards) floor price of \$100,000, has caused such a sensation among the Georgetown set that even the estimable Mrs. Braden is showing signs of cowardice. Just to make sure, however, that her gems are not lost for posterity the Washington Post obliged the gossip seekers with voluminous extracts.

After the manner of the Rockefeller death (in the arms of his mistress) there should be no surprise at his playful, amorous ways. Nevertheless, Mrs. Braden (a veteran assistant to Mr. Rockefeller) does her best to enlighten us all: "One evening, as I hurried

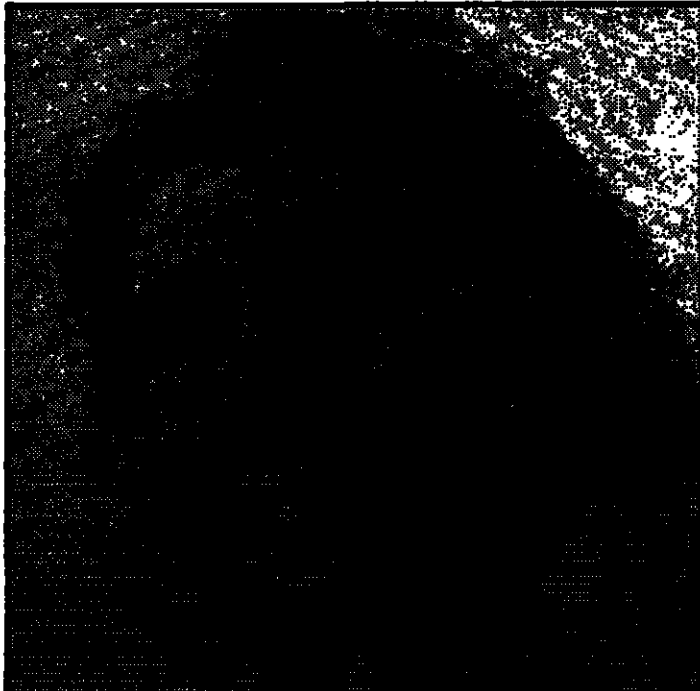
to get ready for a business appointment there was Nelson suddenly in the shower with me, wearing nothing more than a Puckish smile — my God, we had never even kissed!"

All this, however, seems to have been commonplace for the former Vice-President who had a habit — at those fashionable Washington dinner parties — of slipping his hand up the skirts of the ladies on either side of him for a little slap and tickle while the company dined on about East-West relations, the Ford pardon and the like.

Less expected in the Braden confessions is how Robert Kennedy, always portrayed by friendly biographers as the perfect family man (Marilyn Monroe notwithstanding), almost fell to the socialite's wiles. The younger Kennedy, grieving over the assassination of his brother JFK, arrived at the lady's salon and invited Mrs Braden upstairs. "On the bed, we kissed," she recounts.

"Then he got up to take off his tie, but I could not go through with it. He was hurt, silent and angry. Why hadn't I done it? ... Tom (her husband) would have understood, even if Ethel would not have."

The days of Camelot in this highly formal capital were clearly somewhat different from those of Reagan, if Mrs. Braden is to be believed. At one power cocktail



Joan Braden — intimate revelations

party a prominent (unnamed figure) "slipped into my bedroom when I was asleep. He broke a vial; I think it was amyl nitrate — a popper — beneath my nose and made love to me. The drug had weakened a reserve in me built up over 30 years."

Much of the attention in the Braden memoir will be on the first detailed account of her affair, Robert McNamara, the upstanding Kennedy/Johnson Defence Secretary of Vietnam fame who went on to preside over the World Bank with an iron fist.

Tom Braden (we learn) "encouraged" her to pursue the relationship with McNamara. "He

never asks me what goes on," she muses, adding that if her husband, a CIA official in the Kennedy era, had gone to Paris with a "30-year-old brainless beauty I would not like it a bit. But if it were a woman of substance, say an Anne Armstrong (former U.S. Ambassador in London) or Sandra Day O'Connor (Supreme Court Justice) whether he went to be with her or not, I would not try to stop him..."

Gary Hart should have known. According to Washington etiquette, it's socially acceptable to be naughty with equals but bad form to make love to lesser mortals — The Guardian.

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Italian stars turn Mediterranean Games into their own playground

LATAKIA, Syria (Agencies) — The Mediterranean Games have quickly become an Italian playground.

Entering the third day of competition Monday, Italy has won all but two of the 14 gold medals awarded so far in the 18-nation tournament, as well as eight silver medals, twice as many as runner-up France.

Italian swimmers have won every event so far. And they're likely to strike more gold soon because additional swimming medals are due to be awarded Monday and Tuesday.

Italy was easily tops in the 1983 Games in Casablanca as well, where it took 53 gold medals, one-third of all those awarded. Italy's dominance has been accentuated this year because of its strength in swimming and diving, which fall first on the medal calendar, and the relatively weak swimming programmes of most Arab states.

Stefano Battistelli set a meet record of 4:25.59 in the men's individual 400-metre medley Sunday, and Tanya Vannini did the same in the women's 200-metre

freestyle with 2:02.52.

Manuela Dalla Valle equalled the record in the 200-metre breaststroke with 2:33.21.

All of the times were comfortably short of world-record levels: 4:17.41 in the 400-metre medley, 1:57.55 in the women's freestyle and 2:27.40 in the breaststroke.

France broke through Sunday with gold for Claire Izacard in women's springboard diving.

Two Italian women — Laura Schermi and Giuliana Aor — had to settle for the silver and bronze.

Spain took a gold in women's team gymnastics Sunday. The irrepressible Italians were second.

Italian swimmers easily outpaced their rivals in the pool as they did on Saturday, prompting the comment from one official that "the Italians have become the East Germans of the Mediterranean."

Surprising Albania

For more than 40 years, Marx-

ist Albania kept its borders firmly locked. Its unknown athletes sweated safely at home in Europe's most obscure country, glorified only in Tok-and-Gheg-language newspapers.

The doors have been pried open and a monster has stalked out. In its first two matches at the Mediterranean Games, the Albanian women's volleyball team has thrashed the unsuspecting Italians and Turks and established itself as a favourite for a gold medal.

The Albanian women's basketball team kept up the newfound tradition on Monday by crushing Turkey 88-52 in a preliminary match.

The 18-nation tournament is the first major sports festival Albania has entered since World War II, and few experts expected much of a team sheltered so long from international competition.

"Everyone thought that the Albanians were ordinary and that anybody could beat them," said Mahmoud Saloum, a Syrian volleyball judge.

But after watching their first

game against Italy, he said: "They were excellent in defence and had a fast attack."

He said they were the "best women's team of the games."

The green-clad Albanians went on to beat a highly rated Turkish volleyball team as Albanian delegation members chanted "Albania, Albania" in the stands.

Under the leadership of wartime partisan chief Enver Hoxha, Albania steered a Communist course independent of both China and the Soviet Union and fiercely critical of the West.

Hoxha cut the country of 3 million people off from contacts with all but a few allies in the outside world.

The old leader died in 1985, and his successor, Ramiz Alia, has gradually increased foreign contacts.

But the Albanian thirst for global glory still has limits. Team officials have politely refused any comment to the Western press. "We will talk... we will talk," said one official approached by a reporter after a volleyball victory. The official then walked away.

South, North Korean Olympic controversy still lingers on

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The delivery of a letter half way around the world was being awaited by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The letter, containing what was described by North Korea as an "urgent" proposal to settle its demands to co-host the 1988 Summer Games, was sitting at the Demilitarized Zone in Panmunjom, waiting for South Korean officials to pick it up.

"It has not been received yet,"

Kim Un Young, an IOC member from South Korea, said Sunday. "Once it is received in Seoul, it will be released."

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, returning from the Mediterranean Games in Syria for a week of committee meetings, said he knew only that the correspondence was sitting in Panmunjom and was expected to be relayed to Lausanne probably on Monday.

Lopez wins Cellular Golf Championships

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — Nancy Lopez of the United States came from four strokes behind over the final nine holes Sunday to win the \$225,000 Cellular One-Ping Golf Championship by one stroke over three golfers, two of whom missed short putts that could have forced a playoff.

Lopez, winning the ping for the second time in three years, passed six opponents over her back nine and clinched the victory with a 4-foot (1.2-metre) par putt on the 18th hole.

"I felt really good over that putt," she said.

The 30-year-old LPGA Hall of Fame member finished at 6-under-par 210 for the 54 holes and was 1-under-par 71 for the final round as she won her 37th tournament in an 11-year pro career.

Australian-born Jan Stephenson, Americans Kelly Leadbetter and Muffin Spencer-Devlin tied for second at 211.

Stephenson and Leadbetter both missed short par putts on the 18th or there would have been a playoff.

Stephenson, who led for most of the final round, missed from 4-12 feet (1.3 metres), about the same place Lopez was.

"I couldn't be more disappointed," said Stephenson, who hasn't won since breaking three ribs in a car accident four months ago. "I'm really unhappy. I needed something good to happen."

Leadbetter, 109th on the earnings list with just 12,000 heading into the ping, missed from 18 inches (46 centimetres).

"An expensive putt," she said. Leadbetter shot a 67 Sunday for the best finish in her three years on the LPGA Tour.

Chris Johnson, the first-round leader, finished two shots back over the par-72, 6-233-yard (5,699-metre) Columbia-

Edgewater Country Club Course. Lopez, who began the round two shots behind second-round leader Patti Rizzo, had bogeys on the first and sixth holes to drop to 3 under par; four shots behind Stephenson.

But she roared back on the final nine, sinking birdie putts from 12 feet (4m) on the 10th hole, 6 feet (2m) on the 13th hole and 25 feet (7.1-2m) on the 14th.

"I didn't really think I was out of it (after nine holes), but I knew I had to play like crazy to win," she said. "But it seemed like everyone else was faltering."

She said three consecutive second-place finishes the past three weeks had added to her nervousness.

"I was wondering if I could ever win again," she said. "Seriously, it runs through your mind. It really does."

Lopez, who tied for second at last year's ping tournament and won the U.S. junior title on the same Columbia-Edgewater Course 13 years ago, won \$33,750 to boost her 1987 earnings to \$184,011.

Japan's Ayako Okamoto, the defending champion who struggled through the first two rounds of the tournament, shot a course-record 7-under-par 65 Sunday to finish in a four-way tie for sixth at 213. She broke the course record of 66 she and M.J. Smith set last year.

Rizzo, who started the day at 137 shot a 5-over-par 77 Sunday to finish at 214.

But her best friend, Jane Geddes, who started the day one shot behind the leader, had an even worse time.

Geddes' sand shot on the par-3 eighth hole went into the water and she took a triple-bogey 6. She had a double bogey on the next hole and finished the day at 8-over-par 80 to finish at 218.

Napoli faces uphill struggle against Real

LONDON (R) — For once Diego Maradona's form is unlikely to be the key factor when he takes his Napoli team to Spain on Wednesday. How the Italians' defence copes with Real Madrid's 18-goal attack will be more to the point.

"Tremble Napoli. You could be the next," was the reaction of one Spanish newspaper after Real, which meets Napoli in the first round of the European Champions' Cup, beat Real Zaragoza (7-1) on Saturday to add to seven goals the previous weekend and four in their opening league match.

Napoli began its league programme on Sunday with a (1-0) win at newly-promoted Cesena. Salvatore Bagni scoring the 16th-minute winner.

"I don't know if you would put it down to the heat or whether we had our minds already on Madrid — perhaps a bit of both," said Maradona. "We are all playing the Spanish match already — after so much discussion about it. Thankfully soon we'll be out on the pitch."

Six players scored for Real in the rout of Zaragoza, Rafael Gordillo starting things off and Jesus Solana, Emilio Butragueno, Michel Gonzalez, who scored two in a row including a penalty, Miguel Chendo and substitute Milan Jankovic gathering the others.

"What we're doing is absolutely abnormal," said Butragueno. "The way goals are going in is scandalous."

Barcelona in the doldrums While Real Madrid's cause

continued to prosper, Barcelona showed no sign of improvement. They lost (2-0) to local rivals Espanol on Saturday and now languish sixth from the bottom of the First Division.

Argentine manager Luis Menotti at last looked to be getting results from his new array of stars at Atletico Madrid, who took third place in the league after their (3-0) win over newly-promoted Logrones.

Juventus, playing without the attacking sparkle of injured Ian Rush, owed their one-goal victory over Como to a penalty. Rush, already dubbed "Prince of Wales" by some football commentators, is unlikely to play in Juventus' UEFA Cup tie in Malta on Wednesday but could be fit for next week's league fixture at Empoli.

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Trempolino surprises winner of Prix Niele

PARIS (R) — Trempolino, superbly ridden by Pat Eddery, beat previously unbeaten Natroun into fourth place to claim a surprise victory in the \$55,000 Prix Niele at Longchamp on Sunday.

Trempolino, avenging a defeat to Natroun in the Prix du Jockey Club at Chantilly in June, appears to be peaking at the right time with the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe three weeks away.

Video Rock, with Dominique Bouef aboard, finished second three-quarters of a length back while Alain Badel followed a neck away from Saint Andrews.

Winning trainer Andre Fabre said: "Trempolino must have a decent chance in the Arc. He had back problems earlier in the summer which contributed to his two disappointing performances then, but we have got him right now."

Alain de Royer Dupre, trainer of Natroun, a length and a half behind the winner, said: "Our colt was not suited by the slow pace and had to make his own running, but I can't deny we were still disappointed by his performance. We will delay an Arc decision until we have time to think."

Bint Pasha, also ridden by Pat Eddery, emerged as another Arc possibility when making all the running to beat fellow-British-raider Three Tails by two and a half lengths in the \$120,000 Prix Vermeille.

The filly, who started a heavily-backed favourite despite a strong French contingent, gave Eddery his 10th group success in France this season.

Eddery completed a tremendous afternoon by landing a third group race, the Prix Foy on Khalid Abdullah's ordinance.

IOC okays bigger women's field in Seoul

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The women's singles field in next summer's Olympic tennis tournament could be enlarged by as much as 50 per cent under a plan approved Monday by an International Olympic Committee (IOC) panel.

The IOC's programme commission agreed to open up to 16 additional places in the field, provided the new spots are filled by players also entered in doubles.

The panel's recommendation goes to the IOC executive board for consideration. The board begins two days of meeting Tuesday.

The programme commission rejected adding places to the original 32-women singles field without the doubles link. That decision was part of the panel's effort to control the growth in the number of Olympic athletes, according to Mats Carlgen of Sweden, a commission member.

"We generally have to be very, very careful to put more (athletes) in the Olympic Games, especially with a newcomer," Carlgen said.

In Seoul, tennis will be a medal sport in the games for the first time since 1924.

"We have to make restrictions all over," Carlgen said.

The largest number of competitors at a Summer Games was 7,894 at Munich in 1972. The number declined to 5,923 at the Moscow Games in 1980, then climbed to 7,005 in Los Angeles four years later.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

U.S. motorcyclist wins European event

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Eddie Lawson of the United States rode his Yamaha to victory in the 500 c.c. class race in the Portuguese Motorcycling Grand Prix in the Jarama Circuit Sunday. Lawson, the reigning world champion, won the race, comprising 37 laps for a total of 75.9 miles (122 kms), ahead of fellow American Randy Mamola, also on a Yamaha, and Australia's Kevin Magee, on a Yamaha.

Bulgarian wins but falls short of record

PADUA, Italy (R) — Bulgarian world record high jumper Stefka Kostadinova scored an easy victory at an international athletics event here on Sunday but fell short in an attempt to improve on her two-week-old record. Kostadinova, who set a record of 2.09 metres at the world championships last month, tried to leap 2.10 but had to settle for victory at 2.05. Her closest competitor, Alessandra Bonfiglioli of Italy, was able to clear only 1.84 metres.

Boesel takes sportscar crown

FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (R) — Brazil's Raul Boesel clinched the World Sportscar Drivers' Championship at rainswept Spa-Francorchamps on Sunday. Boesel was prevented from driving until midway through the 1,000 km test — ninth round of the series — before joining race-leading British partners Johnny Dumfries and Martin Brundle. The trio went on to win the six-hour event followed home by their Jaguar teammates John Watson of Britain and Dutchman Jan Lammers. Jaguar has already sealed the world manufacturers' prize.

Johnson wins at a stroll in London

LONDON (R) — Ben Johnson won the 100 metres at a canter but fellow world champion Billy Konchellah was beaten at an international athletics meeting at Crystal Palace on Sunday. Johnson, who smashed the world record at the Rome world championships, was an easy winner over American Mel Latany in 10.29 seconds even though the Canadian admitted afterwards to feeling tired. Konchellah, Kenya's world 800 metres champion, was headed by Briton Tom McKean, who seized the opportunity to atone for his dismal, last-place showing in Rome. "Mentally, I needed to come here and run well after that happened in Rome. I don't know how many times I've run that race over in my mind since — but it's completely out of my system now," he said. McKean clocked one minute 45.18 seconds while Konchellah managed 1:45.59 with Babacar Niang of Senegal third in 1:45.83.

Team seeks to conquer Mount Lhotse

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A Polish international team has set up its first high-altitude camp in its attempt to climb the 8,516-metre (27,932-foot) Mount Lhotse, a report received from the team Monday said. The camp was set up last Friday at 5,700 metres (18,696 feet), the message said. Led by Poland's Krazy-sztof Wielicki, a 37-year-old engineer from Tychy, Nalkowskie, the 16-member team has 10 Polish climbers and two each from Mexico, Britain and Italy.

Dynamos beaten in African Soccer Cup

YAOUNDE (R) — Canon of Yaounde beat Zimbabwe's Power Dynamos 2-1 (half-time 0-0) on Sunday in a first leg quarter final tie of the African Cup of champions soccer competition.

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BRITISH LADIES OF AMMAN

MEETING - Registration and coffee. Wednesday, September 16, 10:00 a.m.

HOLIDAY INN Also

Wednesday, September 23

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6375/85	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3212/17	Canadian dollar
	1.8165/75	West German marks
	2.0440/50	Dutch guilders
	1.5060/70	Swiss francs
	37.74/79	Belgian francs
	6.0620/70	French francs
	1310/1311	Italian lira
	144.35/45	Japanese yen
	6.4000/50	Swedish crowns
	6.6700/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.0075/0125	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	455.75/456.25	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were back from their earlier highs in late afternoon business but remained firmly underpinned as Wall Street extended last Friday's sharp advance with a double-figure advance at opening, dealers said.

The U.S. market's resilience to last week's news of a widening U.S. July trade deficit at a record \$16.47 billion encouraged investors here from the outset.

Dealers said a rise in the dollar Monday helped push worries of higher U.S. interest rates to the background while leading U.K. dollar earners advanced strongly. By 1401 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 13.6 to 2,274.8 after a 2.274.6 high at 1046 GMT.

Dealers said a rise of 0.3 pct in August U.K. producer output prices was within expectations and would seem to support Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson's recent prediction of below four pct U.K. inflation by the end of the year.

The figures came at the beginning of a fairly crowded week for U.K. economic indicators, of which the most closely watched will be the August money supply and bank lending data on Friday.

July brought a massive and unexpected \$4.9 billion surge in bank lending which analysts said was partly due to increased corporate borrowing.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1987

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Knight Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Nearly everyone will be overly sensitive today, so be understanding and refrain from criticism, thus avoiding a lot of hurt feelings. The early part of the day is a good time to put new plans into action.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Get an early start at handling your business activities, since later on you'll need time for home matters. Don't invite any outsiders in, but work on restoring harmony.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): There may be some restless driving around you today, so be quite cautious when moving about. When handling correspondence, be sure to add a cheerful note.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Be sure you don't do anything foolish, especially where finances are concerned. Remember the advice of an advisor, and think over your actions before making decisions.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21): Don't be upset if anyone purposely tries to hurt your feelings. Try to be "thick-skinned." This is not a good day to make new plans for the future.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): Others may be too busy to listen to your ideas today, so put them in motion yourself. Avoid critical individuals, and review your plans before presenting them to anyone.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): A situation which you may think you should have an opinion about arises, but it's really none of your business, so stay out of it. Study the basics of new projects.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your intuition may be faulty today, so rely more on thought processes. Try not to be influenced in any way or you'll pay dearly for it later. Think more constructively.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't try to renege on a responsibility, or you could easily get into trouble. Watch your credit situation carefully. If your mate is being too demanding, say so.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't be too forceful in some romantic affair or you could run into trouble. Tact is quite important now when dealing with business or money matters.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): If a partner acts too emotionally, don't get upset. Instead, be understanding and the situation will improve immeasurably. Stick to personal pursuits.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): This is not a good day to take any financial risks, or you could lose a bundle. If you go out with friends, economists and stick with simple but enjoyable pleasures.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): If you go out to a restaurant with a friend this evening, be sure to make it "Dutch treat." Work on perfecting your talents, and you can benefit greatly later.

If Your Child Is Born Today: He or she will be quite sensitive and should be taught early to be more objective to avoid hurt feelings and the development of a martyr complex. The field of merchandising would be perfect here.

Your son or daughter will enjoy cooking due to a love of eating well. If your property is involved in sports, they shouldn't be too rough.

"The Stars Impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
© 1987, McFaulstich Synd.

Correction

IT was erroneously reported in Monday's (Sept. 14, 1987) issue of the Jordan Times that the number of contracts concluded at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) during July 1987 amounted to 17608. The correct number is 7608.

An official at the AFM said that the highest number of contracts this year was during March when 17182 deals were concluded. The official noted that higher figures were posted during 1982.

OPEC team to seek quota pledge from heads of state

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian Energy Minister Subroto said an OPEC committee will tour all members of the group seeking commitments from each head of state to stick by agreed oil production quotas.

"The main aim of the visit is to ask for a commitment from heads of state of OPEC countries to cooperate in trying to stabilise oil prices at \$18 a barrel," he told reporters on Monday after talks with President Suharto.

Dr. Subroto was briefing the president about last week's meeting of five members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna to discuss overproduction by some of the 13-member grouping.

OPEC called the Vienna meeting after spot oil prices crashed by around \$3 in August after reports that the group was producing about three million barrels a day over its self-imposed ceiling of 16.6 million barrels.

"The visit is also designed to ask advice about what steps should be taken to strengthen OPEC so that it can give best results to its members," he said.

Dr. Subroto, who is a member of the three-man quota committee along with OPEC President Riwani Lukman of Nigeria and the energy minister of Venezuela, said the tour of members would begin on Oct. 5. It would start with the Gulf countries, and be followed by visits to Algeria and Libya.

Remaining OPEC countries will be toured in November, he added.

Dr. Subroto said that over-supply to the world oil market was caused not only by OPEC but by some non-OPEC producers.

He said OPEC members with good contacts to non-OPEC suppliers would lobby them to restrict their production and help keep prices around the \$18 OPEC benchmark.

Saudi Arabia would contact Norway and the Soviet Union, while Algeria would be in touch with the Chinese. Dr. Subroto would contact Malaysia and Brunei.

The minister said he believed oil prices would remain around \$18 until the end of 1987, so long as OPEC could restore discipline among its members.

He said he was optimistic that oil prices would stick around the OPEC benchmark.

Economist sees new agricultural challenges

WASHINGTON (AP) — Food distribution and a fair return for the farmer will emerge as chief problems in feeding the world in the 21st century, a government economist says.

They will replace the problem of producing enough crops and livestock to feed a growing world population, says Mr. Clark Edwards of the U.S. Agriculture Department's Economic Research Service.

The world population growth is slowing down, for one thing, Mr. Edwards said in the current issue of the department's Agriculture Outlook magazine. For another, dire assertions of British economist Thomas Robert Malthus 200 years ago that population tends to outrun the food supply have not been proved.

"As world population growth slows, and as farmers around the world find more ways to increase their capacity to produce, the twin problems of food distribution and reasonable returns to farming will take precedence over concerns about how to feed another few billion people," Mr. Edwards said.

The world's population is several times larger than it was in Malthus' day, yet per-capita agricultural production has increased, he said. In the last decade, for example, world population grew 16 per cent while agricultural output increased 19 per cent.

USSR has tea troubles

MOSCOW (AP) — Tea-time at the Kremlin these days is no time to relax and forget your troubles. The land of bubbling samovars, where a good cup of tea is a passion for millions, is going through a tea crisis.

Years of striving for higher production has hurt the quality of the crop in Caucasus republics of Georgia and Azerbaijan, and the southern Soviet region of Krasnodar, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda said in a report.

Soviets say tea remains plentiful in stores, but lacks taste and aroma.

The problem prompted a meeting last week between the Kremlin's No. 2 man, Mr. Yegor Ligachev, Communist Party agriculture chief, Mr. Viktor Nikonov and other officials at the policy-making central committee.

Pravda said Mr. Ligachev told the gathering of the "serious concern that is arising in the country about the situation of tea production and the lowering of its quality."

He criticised officials for failing to ensure that quality tea is available, the newspaper said.

Pravda said the officials promised to plant more tea of newer and higher quality, intensify land reclamation and ensure that workers in processing plants take a better attitude toward their work.

Kenya turns to IMF

NAIROBI (R) — Kenya, after an economic boom in 1986, is seeking aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) because its balance of payments has dived into the red.

Banking sources said the East African country could sign for about \$175 million by the year-end, in two separate packages, if talks with the IMF succeed as expected.

"They'll get it because of their good track record," said a senior commercial banker.

Kenya, estimated by bankers to owe \$3.8 billion, is among the few black African economies untarnished by default or a need to reschedule loan repayments, the sources said.

Roughly three-quarters of its debt is owed to official donors

"So far, as the world has produced more mouths to feed, farmers have found ways to produce more for them," Mr. Edwards said.

During the 1960s, world population grew at a rate of more than two per cent each year, and in the future — at least the short run — may increase at about 1.6 per cent annually. Some demographers think world population may not grow by more than 25 per cent over the next couple of centuries, he said.

"Agricultural growth over the past few decades suggests, as it has ever since Malthus' gloomy predictions, that production can keep up with or even pull ahead of population growth," Mr. Edwards said.

"In fact, food production can grow more slowly in the next few decades than it did during the last few and still keep well ahead of population growth. The difficulty with the global food situation appears to be not how big a pie we can bake, but how to cut and share the pieces," he noted.

"We can probably continue to produce enough to feed everyone on the planet, but we have trouble finding a way to distribute what we grow so that everyone gets a fair share of food, and at the same time the growers and handlers can realise a profit comparable to that earned in other countries," he said.

Japan's finance minister forecasts rapid growth

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan's finance minister forecast on Monday rapid economic growth and predicted the country would have little trouble meeting its international commitment to increase domestic demand.

"We are delivering what we are supposed to deliver," Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said in an interview with Reuters. "I don't see any great problems arising over our domestic policies."

In the past, Japan has often come under fierce attack, especially from the United States, for failing to pump up its economy and increase its imports.

Washington believes faster economic growth is needed in both Japan and West Germany if America is to reduce its huge trade deficit.

Mr. Miyazawa told Reuters the United States was about to get its wish, at least as far as Japan was concerned.

Japanese economic growth for the year ending next March was likely to top the government's 3 1/2 per cent target and could come close to five per cent the following fiscal year, he said. That would be the best performance for four years.

Mr. Miyazawa, a leading contender to succeed Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone at the end of October, said Japan's huge trade surplus had begun to fall and would continue to do so for years. In 1986/87, Japan racked up a surplus of more than \$100 billion, the biggest any nation has ever recorded.

But because Japan will be running a surplus for some time to come, it must come up with new ways to recycle the money abroad, especially in developing countries, Mr. Miyazawa said.

"We must live up to the expectation that Japan should do more for the international community," he said.

Mr. Miyazawa said Japan must give more money to needy nations and help resolve problems facing the debt-ridden Third World.

Tokyo intends to raise the debt issue at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in Washington at the end of this month. "The indebted countries cannot go on forever as they are," Mr. Miyazawa said.

He suggested that international organisations act to promote so-called debt/equity swaps.

Under those swaps, banks "sell" their Third World loans to multinational corporations, who in turn swap them for stakes in factories and other investments in developing countries.

Mr. Miyazawa said he also expects major nations to reaffirm their commitment to stable currencies when they meet in Washington later this month.

"There does not seem to be any alternative," he said. All major nations recognise that a further substantial decline of the dollar would not be good for the world economy, he said.

Economists said a weaker dollar would push up inflation in the United States while limiting economic growth in Japan and West Germany.

Meanwhile, Japan's imports of manufactured goods in the first half of this year soared to a record \$29.5 billion, up 19.4 per cent over the same period last year, the Japan External Trade Organisation said.

It said in a semiannual report that Japan's total imports for the six-month period increased to \$68.3 billion, up six per cent over the same period last year.

The semigovernmental agency said the share of manufactured goods among the country's total imports in the January-June period this year was a record 43.2 per cent, up from the previous record of 41.8 per cent set in the like period last year.

It attributed the increase in the imports of manufactured products to the yen's sharp, prolonged appreciation, advancement in the division of labour between Japan and its trading partners, especially Asian countries, improvement in the quality of foreign products.

The Japanese currency has firmed to the present 142-yen level from 242 yen to the dollar in September 1985. The stronger yen has made Japanese goods more expensive abroad and resulted in lower exports, profits, production, investment and employment in Japan.

Japan's exports in the first six months this year totalled \$108.40 billion, up 9.9 per cent from the same period last year, according to the finance ministry.

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Tamil Tigers reportedly kill 66 in east Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's powerful Tamil Tigers separatist group massacred at least 66 people in a weekend onslaught against rival militants in a key eastern region, residents said on Monday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who oppose Sri Lanka's July 29 peace accord, ambushed vehicles of rival Tamil groups on Sunday and swooped on villages to wreck their offices and shoot down occupants in the eastern district of Batticaloa, police and residents said.

A well-known resident who asked not to be identified told Reuters by telephone there were 66 confirmed deaths. Most of the killings occurred in Batticaloa district but some took place further south in Amparai district, he said.

The Tigers also burned down the houses of four people in Batticaloa who supported their opponents.

"People are in a state of shock. They are miserable at what is happening," a well-known Tamil moderate and resident of Batticaloa who asked not to be identified told Reuters.

The Tigers oppose a peace process begun under a July 29 Delhi-Colombo accord, supported by other Tamil militant groups which previously battled

for autonomy. Under the accord the people of Batticaloa would have the right to reject the unity with the northern Jaffna region which the Tigers control.

Batticaloa City residents said Tigers gunmen set up roadblocks on Sunday before they launched the offensive against rival groups who had set up offices in villages. "It is still going on in the villages all over the district," a resident said.

"The Tigers are sending armed supporters and pulling people out of offices set up by other groups and they have taken away maybe 30 or 40 people today," he added.

Joseph Kingsley Swaminilai, Batticaloa's Roman Catholic bishop, told Reuters by telephone the confrontation had been building up for several days between the Tigers and three rival Tamil groups known as the Three Stars.

Both the Tigers and the Three Stars had been setting up offices in villages across Batticaloa. "This was a challenge and the

Tigers have never accepted any competition," he added.

The bishop said nearly 60 members of the three groups, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), had surrendered to police for protection from the Tigers on Sunday.

Police confirmed that surrenders had taken place.

Since the peace pact ended four years of fighting between the Tamil separatists and government forces, the Tigers have clashed with rival groups in several parts of north and eastern Sri Lanka—the area the separatists claim as a Tamil homeland.

Residents said none of the killings took place in Batticaloa City which is 70 per cent Tamil, 25 per cent Muslim and five per cent Sinhalese.

A referendum on whether the east will agree to unite with the north in a Tamil-dominated semi-autonomous administration is scheduled by the end of next year.

"It is a very sad thing," Bishop Swaminilai said of the inter-Tamil massacres. "There has been no fighting. All the dead were ambushed and eliminated."

Ortega plans talks with opposition

SAN JACINTO, Nicaragua (AP) — President Daniel Ortega has said his government would begin talks with opponents on Oct. 5, but not with the U.S.-backed rebels known as contras.

On Sunday, Mr. Ortega pardoned 16 Central Americans captured while fighting with the contras and relaxed the so-called "law of absence," which allows the government to seize the property of anyone who has fled the country or lived outside its borders for more than six months.

Mr. Ortega made the announcements in a speech and a news conference at the Hacienda of San Jacinto, about 48 kilometres north of the capital, during a celebration of two important dates in Nicaraguan history.

Monday was the 166th anniversary of Central America's independence from Spain and the 131st anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto, when Nicaraguan troops defeated a mercenary army led by U.S. adventurer William Walker.

Mr. Ortega said the "national reconciliation" talks would involve all legally constituted political parties, the Democratic Coordinator and "those who desire to disarm and take advantage of amnesty."

The contras are demanding talks with the government, either directly or through a third party, but say they will not lay down their arms.

The Democratic Coordinator includes businessmen, two labour groups and four political parties. It boycotted national elections in 1984 and is not legally chartered political organisation.

Mr. Ortega did not elaborate in announcing the relaxation of the "law of absence."

But Alejandro Serrano, president of the supreme court, said later that the decree would not be retroactive, meaning that thousands of exiles whose property has been confiscated will not get it back.

Kohl's party loses heavily in two state elections

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) have been forced into further political dependence on the small liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP) after losing heavily in two northern state elections.

The Free Democrats were the big winners in Sunday's elections, more than doubling their share of the vote in the city-state of Bremen, and scoring major gains in the state parliament of Schleswig-Holstein.

Junior partners in Mr. Kohl's three-party Bonn coalition, the FDP now holds the balance of power in Schleswig-Holstein and says it will form a government there with the CDU.

The FDP has made a series of gains in state polls this year and is represented in coalitions with the CDU in four other states.

Schleswig-Holstein's incumbent CDU Premier Uwe Barschel will first have to clear himself of damaging allegations made on Saturday that the organised a "dirty tricks" campaign against his Social Democratic (SPD) opponent Björn Engholm.

Mr. Barschel vigorously rejected the charges, made by the news magazine Spiegel, and said he had filed a lawsuit against the publication. But all the political parties agreed the affair had to be investigated and cleared up as soon as possible.

The Christian Democrats, who saw their vote collapse by almost a third in Bremen and by over six

percentage points in Schleswig-Holstein, made no secret of their distress.

"The outcome in Schleswig-Holstein and Bremen is a bad disappointment, there is no doubt about it," Mr. Kohl told a television interviewer in a first comment.

The main opposition Social Democrats, who took 45.2 per cent of the vote in normally conservative Schleswig-Holstein, to become the biggest single party, were jubilant.

"The CDU have suffered heavy losses, and the SPD made substantial gains. After three decades we are the strongest party in a state whose structure and composition is traditionally conservative," SPD party leader Hans-Jochen Vogel said on television.

Mr. Kohl blamed high abstentions among the large farming community in rural Schleswig-Holstein for the CDU's worst performance there since 1952.

Mr. Kohl also acknowledged that damaging summer rows in his centre-right coalition on nuclear disarmament, human rights in Chile and future policy were a major factor in the Christian Democrats' defeat.

The radical opposition Greens had mixed results. They won 10.2 per cent, nearly double their previous share, in Bremen, but failed in Schleswig-Holstein to clear the five per cent hurdle required for representation.

October 30 deadline set for Bhopal compensation dispute

BHOPAL, India (R) — An Indian judge hearing the Bhopal gas disaster case on Monday set an Oct. 30 deadline to settle a \$3-billion compensation dispute.

Bhopal District Judge M.W. Deo said Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) and the Indian government should reach a "just and overall settlement" by that date for 526,000 claimants, after a deadly gas leak from a Union Carbide plant in Bhopal in December 1984.

More than 2,400 people died and 200,000 were injured by methyl isocyanate gas leaking

from the pesticide factory, owned by an Indian subsidiary of the U.S.-based UCC.

Attorney General K. Parasram, representing the Indian government in its demand for \$3 billion compensation, told the court on Monday that negotiations were in progress to reach a final settlement.

The Indian government earlier rejected UCC's offer of \$1.5 million as interim compensation. Judge Deo asked UCC in April for interim relief because he said the court case was likely to prove a long legal battle.

24 more Indians die in new floods

NEW DELHI (R) — Swollen rivers in northern India engulfed fresh areas on Sunday, causing 24 more deaths and disrupting relief supplies, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

In Bihar state, 20 people were swept away, bringing the known death toll in this season's floods to 548, and four died in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh. Train services were cut between Delhi and

Calcutta and road bridges broken in several places.

In Bihar, some 21 million people have been affected by the floods. In one district alone, 800,000 people are marooned and many are being supplied by air force helicopter, PTI said.

In Assam and Uttar Pradesh, All India Radio said water levels were receding. But the Ganges and its tributaries were reported

to be still rising in Bihar, threatening further areas.

While the floods have struck in north and north-east India, many parts of the country are suffering their worst drought this century. On Friday the government announced cuts of \$500 million official spending to enable it to increase relief aid following the widespread failure of the monsoon.

Chirac hails Caledonia vote

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Jacques Chirac hailed the referendum in New Caledonia as a triumph for Paris and proposed greater regional autonomy for the Pacific island which voted massively to remain part of France.

But opposition Socialists said the poll had changed nothing in New Caledonia, which has seen violent clashes between separatist Kanaks and white settlers.

Two voters in five stayed away from the polls following a boycott call from the separatist Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS).

Mr. Chirac, speaking in Paris on return from a tour of French possessions in the Caribbean, hailed the 58.99 per cent turnout as a "triumphal participation."

"My government will do all it can so that Caledonians can build together a fraternal society based on tolerance, dialogue, mutual respect for dignity, peace and security," Mr. Chirac said.

He indicated he would seek to channel the separatist aspirations of the Kanak (ethnic Melanesian) community by offering more

autonomy to the island.

"My government will propose an autonomy statute within the framework of a broad regionalisation which can be accepted by all Caledonians and provide the stable institutions so badly needed by the territory," he said.

The previous Socialist government set up a regional system of government — with the FLNKS controlling three of four regions — but Mr. Chirac has concentrated more power in Noumea.

Overseas Territories Minister Bernard Pons, who organised the referendum, declined to predict when the new autonomy statute might be presented to parliament.

He said he would go to New Caledonia in the next few days and Mr. Chirac might accompany him.

Mr. Chirac's office later said he would arrive in New Caledonia on Thursday for a 24-hour visit.

For the Socialists, Louis Mermeas, former speaker of the National Assembly, said the referendum had solved none of the territory's problems.

Weather aids U.S. firefighters' efforts

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Lower temperatures and higher humidity aided fire crews as they fought to cut firebreaks around forest and brush fires still burning in the western United States.

More than 1,100 square miles (2,860 square kilometres) in western states have gone up in smoke since the end of August. Firefighters in the state of Oregon got help from helicopters dropping water in 1,000-gallon (3,800-litre) gulps.

Progress against the flames was demonstrated by the number of firefighters still working in northern California. U.S. Forest Service spokesman Ray Schaaf said the number was down to about 9,500 from the 13,720 at the peak of the more than 1,200 lightning fires that began breaking out on Aug. 28.

Elsewhere, crews battled a fire in southern California and one in the Catalina Mountains outside Tucson, Arizona.

Humid, foggy weather eased the battle slightly in Oregon, where firefighters had firebreaks around 25 per cent of the silver complex of fires. Those blazes had charred 29,400 acres (11,900 hectares) about 40 kilometres north of Grants Pass, Forest Service spokesman Chuck Tonn said.

He said a cold front heading toward southern Oregon was expected to bring clouds and a chance of much-needed showers. The fire made several strong runs Saturday but fire lines held. In some cases, firefighters had to be moved out of areas of fire.

In northern California, fears of new fires over the weekend eased Sunday after just one lightning fire was reported by the California Department of Forestry. "Our resources are stretched. We don't need any more fires for at least a week or two," said Forest Service spokeswoman Jane Laboa.

Schaaf said top priorities in northern California were blazes in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest near Redding, about 400 kilometres north east of San Francisco, and the Klamath National Forest to the north of Shasta-Trinity.

"They're dealing with more rugged country than they have in the last few weeks," Schaaf said. In Shasta-Trinity, the North Fork complex of four fires had charred 6,500 acres (2,600 hectares) in rugged terrain in the middle of the forest's wilderness area, Schaaf said.

"The area is one of concern. They show no containment on that at all," he said.

Four other major fires in the Shasta-Trinity were between 40 per cent and 85 per cent contained Sunday, he said.

Pope salutes those who help immigrants

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (Agencies) — During the largest gathering of his current U.S. tour, Pope John Paul II saluted people who aid Latin American immigrants for reaching out "on behalf of suffering brothers and sisters."

At a sun-beaten, open-air mass Sunday attended by an estimated 300,000 people, the pontiff lauded the "courage and generosity" of those who work to help the immigrants.

"They have sought to show compassion in the face of complex human, social and political realities," the Pope, garbed in green robes symbolic of hope and growth, told the crowd at a site in the city of San Antonio, 225 kilometres from the Mexican border.

"Here human needs, both spiritual and material, continue to call out to the church with thousands of voices, and the whole church must respond" in

concert with other Christian denominations, he said.

The Pope did not mention sanctuary by name, but he appeared to be referring to that movement which assists Latin Americans who enter the United States illegally. Two Roman Catholic priests and a nun were among eight sanctuary activists convicted in a six-month federal trial last year.

In Texas, the Diocese of Brownsville operates Casa Oscar Romero, a shelter for illegal aliens named after the murdered Archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador.

The Hispanic-American community was the focal point of the Pope's visit to San Antonio, the fourth stop on a nine-city, 10-day U.S. tour that began last Thursday.

After rain-drenched services in Miami and New Orleans, Sunday's mass was celebrated under

summy skies.

As temperatures climbed, 500 people took refuge from the heat under Red Cross tents at the site and 56 others were taken to hospitals for treatment of heat exhaustion.

In the afternoon, the biggest and by far the most enthusiastic street crowds of this papal tour lined Pope John Paul's route from the municipal auditorium, where the Pope spoke to officials of Catholic charities, past the Alamo to San Fernando Cathedral, where he addressed seminarians. Sidewalks were packed along the way, and San Antonio police estimated the crowd at 325,000.

Two worshippers were killed in a head-on collision about six miles (9.5 kilometres) from the mass site in San Antonio, city spokeswoman Carmen Velazquez Gonzalez said.

U.S. transportation secretary to resign

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole has decided to resign from her post, CBS News reported on Sunday.

Ms. Dole, wife of Republican presidential aspirant Senator Robert Dole, confirmed to a CBS correspondent on Sunday night that she would resign effective on

Oct. 1, a news broadcast said. The New York Times on Sunday reported that Ms. Dole was debating whether to resign to help her husband with his presidential campaign.

"It's a tough decision, very tough, because I love the job I'm in — it's an extraordinarily challenging job," the New York Times quoted her as saying.

The paper also quoted her as saying she would make her resignation "as Bob nears his announcement" of a formal candidacy for the 1988 Republican nomination.

The newspaper said Ms. Dole was facing intense pressure to resign by her husband's supporters, who want her to help in the Kansas Republican's campaign.

1 killed, U.S. diplomat detained at Panama rally

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Police have detained an American diplomat who was observing an anti-government rally in which one protester was killed and five were wounded, rally organisers and the U.S. embassy said.

The demonstration in the south eastern suburb of San Miguelito was broken up by about 15 men in civilian clothing who fired into the crowd with handguns and shotguns, according to reports from organisers, witnesses and a U.S. embassy official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

It was the second protest in two weeks in San Miguelito in which unidentified men attacked the crowd and killed a civilian. Local authorities had warned the organisers rallies would be banned.

Information was being sought Sunday night on the detention and whereabouts of David Miller, a U.S. embassy economic adviser who had gone to watch the demonstration, embassy spokeswoman Cynthia Farrell said.

Miller had gone to the site in a car clearly marked "U.S. diplomatic mission," the embassy sources said.

Panama is in its fourth straight month of protests against the

military-backed government of President Eric Arturo Delvalle and Panama's military strongman, Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Sunday's rally marked the second anniversary of the de-capital death of Dr. Hugo Spadafora, an opposition leader whose family blames the military for the killing.

Members of National Civic Crusade, an opposition coalition of 192 business, political, labour and student groups, estimated 5,000 people joined the protest. Witnesses said there were far fewer.

Carlos Ernesto Gonzales, a coalition director, said the attackers first threw rocks and bottles, then opened fire on the crowd. Several of the attackers wore identical white T-shirts and red caps, witnesses said.

Mr. Gonzales identified the dead protester as 49-year-old Carlos Efraim Guzman and said he was shot in the head. Mr. Gonzales and other witnesses said five other demonstrators were hospitalised with bullet wounds, including two shot in the leg. Hospitals refused to release any information.

No uniformed police or soldiers could be seen during the protest and attack. A duty officer at the Panama Defence Forces' National Investigations Department said the only official authorised to comment could not be located.

The Panama Defence Forces, whose chief is Gen. Noriega, comprise both the army and the police.

National Civic Crusade had blamed "paramilitary forces" for the Aug. 30 attack on protesters in San Miguelito. On that occasion, the victim was identified as a delivery man who was intercepted by the attackers as he drove a bread truck past the demonstration.

The wave of protests broke out June 8 after Gen. Noriega's former second-in-command accused the general of involvement in political killings, vote fraud and trafficking in weapons. Gen. Noriega has denied any wrongdoing.

Mexico City newspapers reported Sunday that Gen. Noriega was in that city to join other foreign officials in Wednesday's Independence Day celebration.

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Puerto Rican becomes Miss International

TOKYO (AP) — Puerto Rican engineering student Laurie Tamara Simpson was named the 1987 Miss International in competition with contestants from 46 other nations or territories. The 18-year-old Miss Simpson, a student at the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, told a news conference, "I can't believe it. I am very, very happy." She received prize money of 2 million yen (\$14,000). Miss Belgium, Muriel Rens, a student of Hoger Handelsen Telen Institute at Mechelen, was chosen runner-up. Miss Mexico, Rosa Isela Fuentes, was third. Miss Rens received 1 million yen (\$7,000). Miss Fuentes, who is to enter Mexico Technological University next spring, won 800,000 yen (\$5,600). The winners were chosen after each of 47 contestants appeared in her nation's traditional costume, a bathing suit and an evening dress before 1,100 spectators at a hall in downtown Tokyo. The contestants chose Miss Colombia, Michelle Betancourt, a student, as Miss Friendship. Miss Hong Kong, Wing Han Lam, was named Miss Photogenic by 70 journalists and photographers on Sept. 4, the first day of the 10-day pageant, which included a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari.

BBC to change Russian programmes

LONDON (AP) — The British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) has said it will broadcast new radio programmes to the Soviet Union now that its signals are no longer being jammed. The BBC now beams 6½ hours a day of Russian-language programmes from London into the Soviet Union, including a five-hour evening transmission, John Tusa, managing director of the state-financed network's External Broadcasting Division, said the Russian service has been jammed for at least half its 41-year history. He said evening news and current affairs programmes had to be repeated several times to give the estimated 15 million listeners a greater chance of hearing them uninterrupted. The Soviet Union stopped jamming the BBC on Jan. 20 and announced in May it had stopped jamming Voice of America (VOA) broadcasts as part of the policy of glasnost or openness. But the Soviets challenged VOA to make better programmes to stay competitive. "Russian audiences are just beginning to find their own media can be full of surprises," Mr. Tusa said. "So with jamming lifted, the onus is on the BBC to come up with fresh and challenging ideas." The changes will include more music, which was particularly difficult to listen to when the signal was interrupted, more English lessons and a 35-minute live daily magazine programme called Argument. Mr. Tusa said the programme will include specially compiled reports from Russian-speaking journalists and experts around the world. A weekly discussion programme aimed at young people begins next month, he said.

Greater efforts urged to combat alcoholism

MOSCOW (R) — Authorities in some regions of the Soviet Union are failing to push the Kremlin's anti-drink drive, the Communist Party daily Pravda has reported. Pravda said that after some success in the campaign to wipe out alcoholism and drunkenness, initiated by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev two years ago, party and state organisations had slackened off and were devoting less attention to it. The article concentrated on the problem in three regions: Karelia, near the border with Finland, Poltava in the Ukraine and the rich agricultural region of Krasnodar in south east Russia on the Black Sea. "Commissions set up to fight alcoholism and drunkenness are theoretically working, but several of them have virtually ceased activity," Pravda said, adding that sales of alcohol in all three regions had risen sharply this year. Illegal distilling was also on the increase, it said, noting that Poltava authorities had destroyed 36,000 illegal home stills over the past two years. Pravda said one of the main causes of the problem was a failure by local authorities to increase the production of non-alcoholic alternatives. Recent press reports have also noted that shops have eased restrictions on alcohol sales in order to boost revenues severely cut by the anti-drink campaign. The campaign has included a number of unpopular measures such as restrictions on the sale of alcohol, cuts in production and radical price increases.

Heroin stolen in U.K.'s biggest robbery

LONDON (R) — Heroin with an estimated street value of £1.5 million (\$2.4 million) was among valuables and cash stolen last July from safe deposit boxes in Britain's biggest robbery, the Mail On Sunday newspaper said. An early edition of the newspaper said that London's police headquarters Scotland Yard would send detectives abroad to search for 2.5 kilos (5.5 lbs) of heroin and other stolen property believed taken in the £30 million (\$48 million) raid at the Knightsbridge Safety Deposit Centre. The Mail On Sunday said police had information that a diamond worth £1 million (\$1.6 million) had been stolen from the centre and smuggled within hours to Israel. A police spokesman questioned about the report said no trace of drugs had been found in any of the rifled boxes in the high-security strongroom. The Pakistani-born manager of the centre, two Israelis, a Dane, an Italian and five Britons have been charged in connection with the July 12 robbery in one of London's most exclusive areas. The Mail On Sunday said 10 police detectives working in pairs will travel on Monday to the United States, Switzerland, Italy, Luxembourg and Israel to search for the heroin and other stolen property. Police confirmed that investigators would go to Switzerland and Luxembourg. In New York, the Mail On Sunday said, the detectives will examine bank accounts to see if any had large amounts of sterling cash deposited following the raid.

'Babies suffer effects of mother's drug use'

CHICAGO (AP) — Babies born to mothers who used cocaine during pregnancy may suffer muscle tremors, stiffness and other neurological problems up to four months after birth, a researcher has said. At four months old, most normal infants are exploring their bodies constantly, kicking their legs in the air, arching their backs and even putting their feet in their mouths while lying on their backs, said Jane Schneider. But those born to cocaine-abusing mothers tended to lie flat and move stiffly at that age, said Ms. Schneider, a physical therapist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. She presented her findings at the Second Annual National Conference on Drug Use in Pregnancy. "They don't explore because they can't," she said in a telephone interview. "Normal babies are learning about their bodies and where things start and stop — cocaine babies are missing out on something."

Michael Jackson opens solo world tour

TOKYO (R) — Michael Jackson is back with a vengeance. The wiry superstar has sizzled through his first concert appearance since 1984 before an adoring Tokyo crowd of 40,000 in the opening show of his first solo world tour. Jackson, in terrific voice, pranced his way through a non-stop two-hour performance consisting of 16 songs, mostly old favourites and with very few from his new album Bad. "It's incredible, he's fabulous. I love him," screamed one young girl as she leapt up and down. "He's gorgeous," said Toshiko Matsumura, a 22-year-old fashion model. "It's the best show I've ever seen, even better than Huey Lewis and the News." For most of the show, Jackson wore the silver-studded leather jump suit featured on the Bad album cover, making him look like a cross between a biker and Zorro. His hair was fashioned into a curly ponytail. But he changed for a couple of songs into the sparkling dinner jacket and single white glove that fans remember from his previous media incarnation. With Jackson fighting to top his success with Thriller, the biggest-selling album ever, a lot was riding on Saturday night's performance. "We'd better not screw up tonight," said a public relations executive from Jackson's record company just before the show started. "We have all these big shots around." The original price for tickets was 5,500 yen (\$45) but scalpers outside the stadium were selling them for up to 120,000 yen (\$850).

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ85 ♠AQJ3 ♠AQJ3

Partner opens the bidding with four hearts. What action do you take?
A.—Depending on the quality of partner's hearts, slam could be laydown, depend on a side-suit finesse or have no play at all. The only way you can find out is to raise to five hearts. That asks partner to consider the quality of his suit for slam purposes. The fact that you did not cue-bid or ask for aces guarantees that you have all the side suits under control.

Q2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQK72 ♠AK983 ♠A ♠93

The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
A.—Someone is taking advantage of the vulnerability to try something — there is no way that one of the opponents can have an opening bid and the other a jump shift. To alert your partner to what's going on, start with a cue-bid of three diamonds.

Q3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQJ72 ♠AK983 ♠A ♠93

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—Don't give up on slam just because partner has denied a heart fit! If he has a four-card diamond suit, your combined assets should still stretch to slam. Find out by bidding four diamonds. If he can do no better than four no trump, make another move by raising.

Q4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ ♠K4 ♠AKJ53 ♠9762

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
A.—We hate to accept a low-level penalty double when we have a six-card major suit and a void in the opponent's suit — to achieve maximum results, you usually have to lead trumps through declarer, and you are going to find that difficult. However, partners don't make low-level doubles with a fit in your suit and you have enough strength to compensate for your lack of hearts. Besides, you will still be a 2-1-1 favorite to win the rubber. Pass.

Q5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQK10652 ♠AJ6 ♠AK983

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
A.—We hate to accept a low-level penalty double when we have a six-card major suit and a void in the opponent's suit — to achieve maximum results, you usually have to lead trumps through declarer, and you are going to find that difficult. However, partners don't make low-level doubles with a fit in your suit and you have enough strength to compensate for your lack of hearts. Besides, you will still be a 2-1-1 favorite to win the rubber. Pass.